# THE REMATCH

THE BIBLE OF BOXING

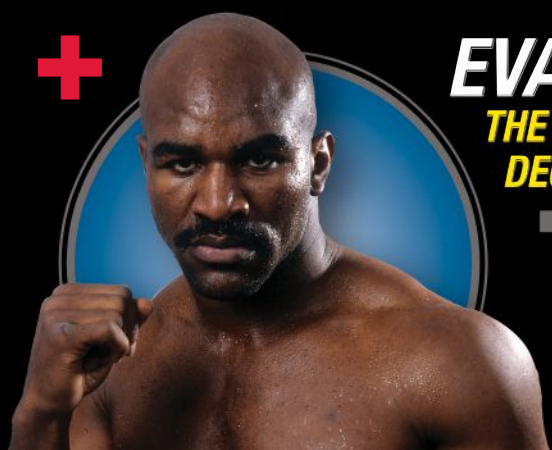
# The RING

22-PAGE PREVIEW

# MAYWEATHER VS. MAIDANA II

THE RIVALS HAVE A SECOND CHANCE TO GET IT RIGHT P.44

THE MAYWEATHER DYNASTY P.50 ★ WHO'S THE BEST MODERN BOXER? P.56



## EVANDER HOLYFIELD

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## CHRIS ALGIERI

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The RING

OCTOBER 2014

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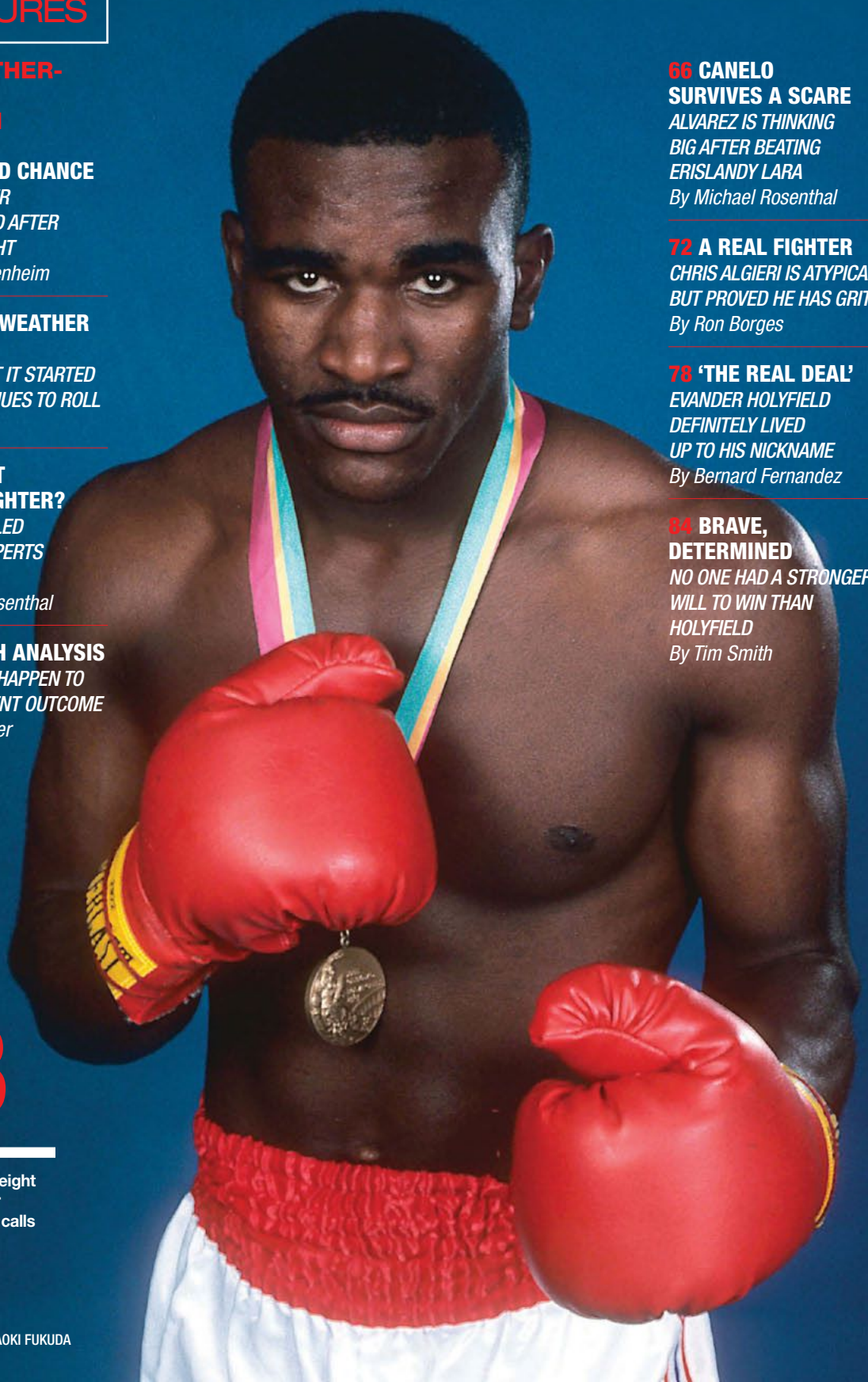

**78**

**Former heavyweight champ Evander Holyfield finally calls it quits.**

COVER PHOTO BY NAOKI FUKUDA

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**Ricky Hatton is the subject of Best I Faced.**

JOHN GICHIGI /ALLSPORT

# BOXING

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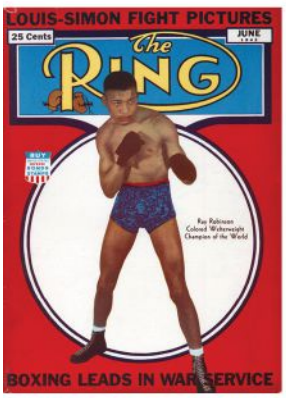
# A SEARCH FOR NO. 1

**The word "great" is thrown** around a lot in boxing. Even worse, so are the words "best of all time."

And it's not just Floyd Mayweather Jr. and his followers, although they probably use the latter term more than anyone else these days. Some of Manny Pacquiao's fans undoubtedly feel their man is one of the greatest ever. And there are others.

The point is that it's easy to use such superlatives, which is why they generally don't mean much.

With that in mind, I thought it would be interesting to put some substance behind the discussion. So I asked 19 historians, journalists and authors – all with expertise in boxing – to take part in a poll I hoped would give our readers a better idea of where the best fighters really stand in the modern era. I also took part, bringing the total to 20.



**Sugar Ray Robinson**

The participants were instructed to submit a list of their Top 20 fighters since World War II, using the International Boxing Hall of Fame's cutoff date for modern fighters: Last fight no earlier than 1943.

And they were implored to at least consider active and recently retired fighters, enduring champions such as Mayweather, Pacquiao, Roy Jones Jr., Bernard Hopkins and Evander Holyfield. I wanted everyone to have a fair chance.

The scoring system was borrowed from college football polls – 20 points for a first-place vote, 19 for second, 18 for third and so on.

In the end, I'm not sure the participants thought it was as much fun as I hoped they would have lending their expertise. More than one said it was extremely difficult – even painful – choosing 20 from among so many great fighters over the past 70-plus years.

They did their duty, though. They submitted their lists and we did the tabulating.

The winner of the poll – see Page 56 for the results – was predictable. No. 1 Sugar Ray Robinson is generally considered the best of all time, although three of those who took part in this poll gave the top spot to other fighters.

There were some surprises, though. Some legends I thought would do well finished near the bottom of the final Top 20 or didn't make the list at all while some contemporary fighters did better than I expected.

One thing the project demonstrated conclusively is that there is no right and wrong. The participants are all well versed in boxing yet 49 fighters received votes, meaning one can make arguments for many of the best champions.

Even Mayweather and Co. can insist that he's the greatest who ever laced up gloves and no one can prove them wrong.

That brings us back to the purpose of the poll, which was to give you a better feel for how the top fighters stack up against one another. I think we accomplished that. If nothing else, we've created a solid platform for what inevitably will be an ongoing debate.

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CHRISTOPHER POLK/GETTY IMAGES FOR ESPYS

Floyd Mayweather Jr. won the Best Fighter ESPY Award for the sixth time, beating out Manny Pacquiao, Andre Ward, Jon Jones (MMA) and Ronda Rousey (MMA). "Money" also received a bonus: He got to spend time with tennis player Maria Sharapova.

Terence Crawford (left) delivered a breakthrough performance against Yuriorkis Gamboa on June 28, stopping the talented but undersized Cuban in the ninth round in Crawford's hometown of Omaha, Neb.

CHRIS FARINA / TOP RANK

EVERLAST
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Canelo Alvarez's aggression and punishing body shots allowed the popular Mexican to defeat an elusive Erislandy Lara (right) by a split decision on July 12 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

MAMI FUKUDA

# COME OUT WRITING

## LARA'S FAULT

What ever happened to the boxing adage that a challenger has to take a title from the champion? Clearly Erislandy Lara is a quicker, more talented boxer than Canelo Alvarez. However, he was lulled into a false sense of security by his own ability. He was able to land at will and his movement caused Alvarez to expend a lot of energy; had he been more active, I have no doubt he would have dominated the fight. However, every fighter enters the ring with a plan until he gets punched and Alvarez landed some devastating body shots in the middle rounds that may have caused Lara to avoid exchanges. I thought Alvarez clearly won as many as eight of the 12 rounds. I'm shocked at the cries of controversy. I think a better sentiment is disappointment in Lara for not taking advantage of his opportunity to best Alvarez as he was obviously capable.

**James Saxon III**
*Aiken, S.C.*

## ROBBERY

In my opinion, the Canelo Alvarez-Erislandy Lara decision was the robbery of the year. I have re-watched the fight three times on mute and half of those body shots everyone keeps talking about were blocked. Goes to show you how commentators influence the viewers. I had Lara winning at least nine or 10 rounds. Canelo was the same sloppy fighter who follows and doesn't know how to cut off the ring. Pathetic performance on his end.

**Simon Zinho**
*Dallas*

## SAFE 'MONEY'

Floyd Mayweather Jr. will be triumphant in his rematch with Marcos Maidana in a much more cautious fight than the first time. He will box from the outside and dictate the fight from the middle of the ring behind a busy jab and straight right hands. I will buy the fight on the off chance lightning can strike twice and he can be in two exciting fights in a row. But I won't hold my breath for that.

**Nick Malpus**
*Manchester, England*

## NO EASY TASK

I think Floyd Mayweather Jr. will win the second fight with Marcos Maidana but I don't think it's going to be easy. Mayweather always wants to solve the puzzle in front of him and then take control. To do that, he must be willing to exchange with Maidana at times but he'll hesitate to do so for fear of what might come back. He'll be on the defensive as long as Maidana throws those awkward power punches. Adrien Broner and Amir Khan thought they had Maidana figured out and they eventually got caught. Mayweather will win but not simply because he figured out Maidana. He'll have to grind it out.

**Ronnie McGill**
*Attleboro, Mass.*

## SCORE ONE FOR LANE

No matter how you scored the intriguing Ruslan Provodnikov-Chris Algieri fight (I had it for Provo), I think that the deeper upset deserves attention: Freddie Roach vs. Algieri's trainer, Tim Lane. Lane's work in Algieri's corner was masterful in both a strategic and a motivational sense. He kept his fighter calm as he delivered valuable observations and instructions. At least for that one night, Freddie's fighter was less well-prepared and less well-advised than his opponent.

**Bernard Freydberg**
*Slippery Rock, Pa.*

## VALUABLE STATISTICS

Thanks for the list detailing the number of heavyweight champions in each of the last 10 decades (August 2014 issue). It provided valuable statistics and details for me as a lifelong student of heavyweight history. From an average of between two to five champions per decade in the earlier part of the 20th century to almost 20 per decade since the 1980s confirms how cheapened the once-golden fleece of boxing has become.

**Damola Ifaturoti**
*Princeton Junction, N.J.*

---

## CORRECTION

*In the August 2014 issue, a mistake was made in our Advanced Degrees feature. We wrote that Hector Camacho Sr. fought Phillip Holiday. In fact, it was Camacho Jr. who faced Holiday. We should've taken this route in our effort to link the three "Sugars:" Ray Robinson fought Joey Archer, who fought Emile Griffith, who fought Armando Muniz, who fought Ray Leonard, who fought Camacho Sr., who fought Oscar De La Hoya, who fought Shane Mosley.*

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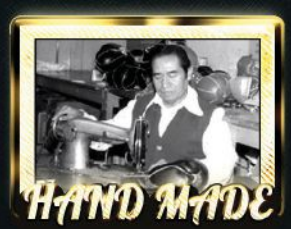


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# ‘THE FIGHTER MAKES THE TRAINER’

JABS & STRAIGHT **WRITES**

BY THOMAS HAUSER

Freddie Roach (left) has had the good fortune of working with boxers as talented as James Toney.

AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

## **FREDDIE ROACH**’S EXPERIENCE AS A BOXER CONVINCED HIM THAT EVEN THE BEST COACHES CAN DO ONLY SO MUCH

**On the night of June 14,** Freddie Roach was in Ruslan Provodnikov’s dressing room long before the fighter arrived for his WBO 140-pound title defense against Chris Algieri.

“I’d rather be here than in the hotel,” said Roach, a six-time Boxing Writers Association of America Trainer of the Year. “Hotel rooms bore me. Gyms and dressing rooms, I like.”

When Roach is at home in California, he opens the Wild Card Boxing Club in Hollywood five days a week at 7 a.m. and closes it 13 hours later. “There are times when I’m tired,” he said. “But training fighters is like fighting. If you start cutting corners, it’s time to quit.”

The conversation turned to the relationship between trainers and fighters. “The fighter makes the trainer more than the other way around,” Roach said.

To prove his point, he cited two incidents.

“I was training in Las Vegas, getting ready to fight Tommy Cordova,” Roach said. “Eddie Futch was my trainer, and Ray Arcel came to visit. Eddie and Ray were friends. Eddie had told me stories about Ray for years and said that Ray was a great trainer. You had to be special for Eddie to talk about you like that.”

“Ray spent a whole week in the gym with Eddie and me,” Roach continued. “Then, the night of the fight (June 12, 1984), he worked my corner with Eddie. I was getting close to the end as a fighter by then. I lost a 12-round decision. All I could say afterward was, ‘I’m sorry.

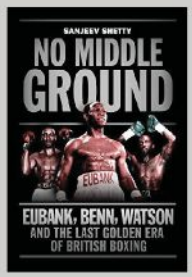
It was an honor to have the two of you in my corner.'"

And the other occasion?

"It was right after I quit boxing," Roach said. "Angelo Dundee had a fighter named Cubanito Perez, who was getting ready to fight Meldrick Taylor. Angelo was too busy to work with him. I was working as a telemarketer and was broke at the time, and Eddie suggested to Angelo that I train Perez. The fight was in Atlantic City (on July 11, 1987). Angelo was the chief second. You had Angelo Dundee, Eddie Futch and me in the corner. And Perez lost every round.

"At the end of the day, it's about the fighter, not the trainer," Roach said. Then he added wistfully, "I'd trade all my Trainer of the Year awards and every dollar I've made as a trainer if I could have won a championship belt." ★

# ON THE BOOKSHELF




*"No Middle Ground"* by Sanjeev Shetty explores the five fights contested among Chris Eubank, Nigel Benn and Michael Watson between 1989 and 1993. Eubank emerged with three wins and a draw. Watson's ledger was 1-2. Benn was knocked out by both men before earning a draw against Eubank.

The impact of the fights was magnified by the fact that they were seen in England by a mass audience on free television. And they're best remembered for the horrifying drama of Sept. 21, 1991. That night, going into the 12th and final round, Watson was leading Eubank on all three judges' scorecards. But he was struggling badly, the result of bleeding in his brain.

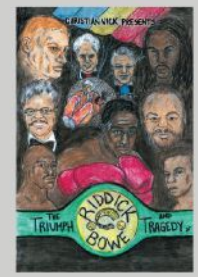
The bout was stopped. Watson collapsed. He underwent multiple surgeries and was in a coma for 40 days. Remarkably, he survived and regained many of his cognitive and physical functions. But he still suffers from impediments, including partial paralysis.

"No Middle Ground" paints a portrait of three fighters with diverse personalities labeled by the author as "a prancer (Eubank), a bully (Benn) and a straight man (Watson)."

Shetty writes honestly, saying, "Benn, Eubank and Watson would probably only feature in the best-of category when the discussion turned to British boxers." And, refreshingly, he acknowledges, "We all had our favorites. ... At times, we wanted one of them to win more than the other."

But Shetty's recitation of events is more workmanlike than soaring. And the best material in the book – his recounting of Watson's slow, painful rehabilitation – is vague with regard to how things stand now.

That said, the message of "No Middle Ground" is clear: "Serious injury to boxers," Shetty writes, "is a permanent risk. And when you see it, you don't forget it." ★




In today's world, any writer can be self-published. Some of the offerings (such Adam Pollack's books on boxing's early gloved champions) are on a par with mainstream publications. For others, quality control is a problem. *"The Triumph and Tragedy of Riddick Bowe"* by Christian Vick is a hybrid between oral history and narrative. As with many self-published books, there are too many misspellings and substantive errors. There is, however, some good material in the quotes. My favorite is from Bowe himself. Recalling the night that he decisioned Evander Holyfield to claim the heavyweight crown, Bowe said, "I wanted to cry. It was like having a baby." ★

*"This Was a Man"* by Charles Redner is an authorized biography of former middleweight champion Joey Giardello. Giardello was a good family man and a good fighter. But this book is more hagiography than biography and, at times, is sloppy with the facts. For example, it references a $10.7 million libel judgment won by Randall "Tex" Cobb against Sports Illustrated without noting that the verdict was overturned on appeal.

That leads to one of the more interesting chapters in Giardello's life: his own lawsuit for defamation against Universal Pictures, which falsely portrayed him in "The Hurricane" (a movie based on Rubin Carter's life). In reality, Giardello gave Carter a boxing lesson en route to a unanimous-decision triumph. But the movie showed Giardello taking a beating, only to be rescued by a corrupt hometown decision. Ultimately, Universal settled with Giardello for an undisclosed amount.

Legacies are important. I'm glad Giardello won that outside-the-ring fight. ★

# QUICK QUIZ

**1.** DESPITE HIS FAME, JAKE LAMOTTA WASN'T A PARTICULARLY BIG PUNCHER. IN 106 FIGHTS, HOW MANY KNOCKOUTS DID "THE BRONX BULL" HAVE?

**2.** HOW OLD WAS CANELO ALVAREZ WHEN BERNARD HOPKINS TURNED PRO?

**3.** MATCH THE FIGHTER WITH THE ILLEGAL DRUG FOR WHICH HE TESTED POSITIVE:

| | |
|---|---|
| ERIK MORALES | EXOGENOUS TESTOSTERONE |
| LAMONT PETERSON | DROSTANOLONE |
| ANDRE BERTO | NANDROLONE |
| ANTONIO TARVER | CLENBUTEROL |

**Quick Quiz Answers: 1.** LaMotta's final ring record was 83-19-4, with 30 knockouts. ★ **2.** Hopkins turned pro on Oct. 11, 1988. Alvarez wouldn't be born for almost another two years. ★ **3.** Erik Morales – clenbuterol, Lamont Peterson – exogenous testosterone, Andre Berto – nandrolone, Antonio Tarver – drostanolone

Mauricio Sulaiman became WBC president when his father died.

## FAMILY TRADITION

**Like many boxing enthusiasts, I had hoped** that newly installed WBC President Mauricio Sulaiman would build upon the accomplishments of his father but, at the same time, correct some of the abuses that have characterized the WBC for decades. That optimism was shortlived.

On June 3, I sat with Mauricio for a two-hour interview.

"The past few months have been a difficult process, very confusing," Sulaiman said at the start of our conversation. "Since my father died (on Jan. 16, 2014), there has not been one single moment of peace for grieving and for my family. There were five thousand beautiful notes, but also immediately the calls about what do we do now. I'm very happy with the unity of the board of governors. There are many challenges because boxing today is not what it was even five years ago."

And what are those challenges?

"The WBC was formed for one main reason: to recognize who the one world champion is in every weight division," Sulaiman said. "Everything else is second to that. That is the focus. We have to go back to basics."

So would the WBC allow Bermane Stiverne to make the first defense of his WBC belt in a title-unification bout against Wladimir Klitschko instead of requiring him to fight Deontay Wilder?

"No," Sulaiman said. "For the WBC to allow Klitschko to fight Stiverne for our title now would go against the IBF, which has ordered a mandatory defense for Klitschko. I cannot insult the IBF in that way."

And speaking of "one world champion in every weight division," what about all those diamond champions, silver champions, champions emeritus, etc?

"There is often a need for a championship atmosphere around a fight," Sulaiman answered.

Like father, like son. ★

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at thauser@rcn.com. His most recent book (*Reflections: Conversations, Essays, and Other Writings*) has just been published by the University of Arkansas Press.

SULAIMAN: ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES; LAMOTTA KEYSTONE/GETTY IMAGES.

# ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES

## 10 A MONTHLY BOXING LIST

**THIS MONTH:** **Hall of Fame boxers with no more than 40 bouts. Most of the fighters we consider all-time greats had many fights. That's not true of all of them, though. Here is a list of 10, in order of distinction, who made their marks in relatively few outings.**

**1. SUGAR RAY LEONARD**
40 bouts (36-3-1, 25 KOs)

**2. JOE FRAZIER**
37 bouts (32-4-1, 27 KOs)

**3. JAMES J. JEFFRIES**
22 bouts (19-1-2, 16 KOs, 1 NC)

**4. VICENTE SALDIVAR**
40 bouts (37-3, 26 KOs)

**5. MICHAEL SPINKS**
32 bouts (31-1, 21 KOs)

**6. AARON PRYOR**
40 bouts (39-1, 35 KOs)

**7. « KOSTYA TSZYU**
33 bouts (31-2, 25 KOs, 1 NC)

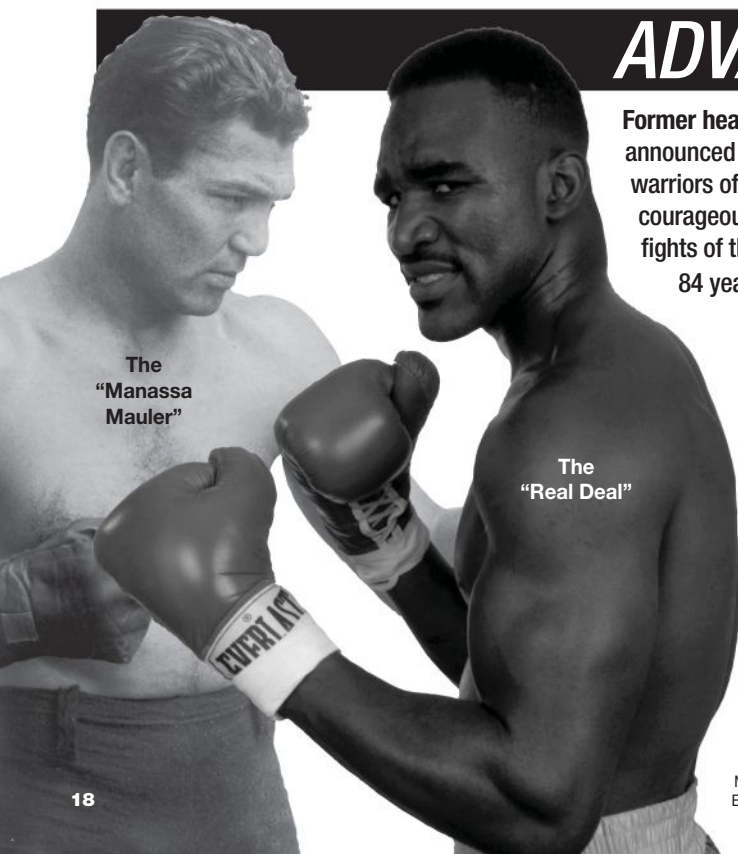
**8. JEFF FENECH**
33 bouts (29-3-1, 21 KOs)

**9. CARLOS PALOMINO**
38 bouts (31-4-3, 19 KOs)

**10. BARRY MCGUIGAN**
35 bouts (32-3, 28 KOs)

Honorable mention: James J. Corbett (18, 3 NC), Ingemar Johansson (28), Laszlo Papp (29).

## ADVANCED DEGREES




**Former heavyweight** and cruiserweight champion Evander Holyfield, who announced his retirement in June, will be remembered as one of the great warriors of all time. The Real Deal was a modern-day Jack Dempsey, a courageous warrior whose ring exploits made him a legend. The final fights of their careers – Dempsey's in 1927, Holyfield's in 2011 – came 84 years apart yet we were able to link them in only seven steps.

**EVANDER HOLYFIELD** fought …
**GEORGE FOREMAN,** who fought …
**MUHAMMAD ALI,** who fought …
**ARCHIE MOORE,** who fought …
**ROCKY MARCIANO,** who fought …
**JOE LOUIS,** who fought …
**JACK SHARKEY,** who fought …
**JACK DEMPSEY**

— **Michael Rosenthal**

NOTE: BOXREC.COM INDICATES THAT DEMPSEY'S LAST FIGHT WAS IN 1932 BUT IT WAS AN EXHIBITION. EMAIL YOUR ADVANCED DEGREES TO COMEOUTWRITING@SEPUBLICATIONS.COM.

# GOOD, BAD, WORSE

## THE BEST AND WORST IN BOXING FROM THE PAST MONTH

By **Michael Rosenthal**

## GOOD

I couldn't have much more respect for IBF and WBA light heavyweight titleholder Bernard Hopkins, who somehow remains an elite boxer as he approaches 50. And then he made this announcement: He wants to fight Sergey Kovalev, the WBO 175-pound titleholder. I see in Kovalev one of the most dangerous fighters in the world, a good, experienced boxer with mind-numbing punching power. The Russian was 24-0-1 – with 22 knockouts – going into a scheduled fight against Blake Caparello on Aug. 2. Hopkins evidently sees in Kovalev a fighter he can beat or he wouldn't be pursuing the fight. I'm not sure I agree with him but I think I understand his thought process. This version of Hopkins, who is at least somewhat slower than he was, will have trouble with particularly quick opponents. The best example of that is Chad Dawson, who outpointed Hopkins fairly easily in 2012. Kovalev isn't plodding but he might be slow enough for Hopkins to give him trouble if the old man can avoid big punches. Still, Hopkins will be taking an enormous gamble if he tangles with this guy. The fact he is willing to do so is one more reason to admire him.

## BAD

Congratulations to Levi Martinez, the newest member of THE RING's Poor Judge-ment Club. The veteran judge from New Mexico somehow managed to score a very close fight between Canelo Alvarez and Erislandy Lara 117-111 – nine rounds to three – for Alvarez. Martinez evidently believed that the Mexican fought with effective aggression, which is fine. That doesn't mean you discount the effective work of the stick-and-mover, though. Alvarez spent a good deal of the fight chasing Lara in vain and eating quick, hard combinations for his trouble. The other two judges scored it 115-113 – one for Alvarez, one for Lara. I had 114-114, a draw. I think that's the scoring range most people believe was acceptable. 117-111? Another case of inept judging that reflects poorly on the sport. At least Martinez has company. He joins charter Poor Judge-ment member Gustavo Padilla, who scored the Hopkins-Beibut Shumenov fight 114-113 for Shumenov even though BHop schooled his less experienced opponent. Sadly, we expect the club to continue to grow.

## WORSE

Former middleweight champ Sergio Martinez said in July that he wants to fight again even after the beating he took against Miguel Cotto on June 7, which is understandable: No one wants to go out like that. Martinez's self-assessment is less understandable. I was stunned to hear that he attributed his poor performance to what he called a "bad night" and the fact he was hurt by a punch in the first round, in which he went down three times and never fully recovered. I want to give Martinez the benefit of the doubt but that's hard to buy. I've been covering boxing for most of the past quarter century. I've seen a lot of fighters in action. And I saw half a fighter on June 7, one whose knees are shot. It seemed clear to me that he simply couldn't move, which was painful to watch. Martinez planned to see a doctor after the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Marcos Maidana rematch on Sept. 13 to make a final decision on his future. I hope the doctor provides an honest assessment even if the news isn't good.

TSZYU/HOLYFIELD: THE RING MAGAZINE; DEMPSEY: HULTON ARCHIVE; GONZALEZ: TOSHIFUMI KITAMURA; RUENROENG: BUDDHIKA WEERASINGHE; IOKA: AFP

# FIGHTERS' FAVORITES

## WHAT BOXERS ARE INTO OUTSIDE THE SPORT

### ROMAN GONZALEZ

FLYWEIGHT CONTENDER

**MUSIC -** "Christian music, specifically [Puerto Rican-American] singer Danny Berrios' song 'Himno de Victoria.'" ★ **CAR -** "Toyota Prado, it's a 4x4. I currently own one." ★ **FOOD -** "I love steak and onions, spaghetti in Bolognese sauce." ★ **TATTOOS -** "I hate them and don't want one." ★ **ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING -** "Michael Jordan in basketball." ★ **MOVIE -** "Any movie with Jean Claude Van Damme. Love those insane kicks." ★ **VIDEO GAME -** "'Mario Brothers.' Still very old school in that sense."

### AMNAT RUENROENG

IBF FLYWEIGHT TITLEHOLDER

**MUSIC -** "Luk thong (Thai country music)." ★ **CAR -** "Nissan Almera." ★ **FOOD -** "Thai food." ★ **TATTOOS -** "A free bird, which means free to go anywhere, and Buddha to bring the best of luck." ★ **ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING -** "David Beckham." ★ **MOVIE -** "I like action movies." ★ **VIDEO GAME -** "None."

### KAZUTO IOKA

FLYWEIGHT CONTENDER

**MUSIC -** "Big Bang (a Korean band) and rock." ★ **CAR -** "I have a Porsche and a Lamborghini." ★ **FOOD -** "I like Korean-style BBQ, especially salt tongue." ★ **TATTOOS -** "I have none." ★ **ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING -** "Nobody, only boxing." ★ **MOVIE -** "'Wild Speed' (the Japanese title for 'Fast and Furious')." **VIDEO GAME -** "Nothing, no games."

## RING POLL

**A MONTHLY POLL OF OUR RINGTV.COM READERS**

RingTV.com readers believe that the fight between Canelo Alvarez and Erislandy Lara on July 12 was close. We asked: **How did you score the Canelo Alvarez-Erislandy Lara fight?** Almost 75 percent of voters scored it 115-113 for Alvarez, 115-113 for Lara or a draw. Here are the percentages.

### THE PERCENTAGES:

**115-113 ALVAREZ 32.9**

**115-113 LARA 28.4**

**114-114 13.5**

**116-112 ALVAREZ 8.9**

**116-112 LARA 6.5**

**117-111 ALVAREZ 3.6**

**117-111 LARA 2.7**

**OTHER 3.5**

**Note:** 6,412 readers voted

# Corona Extra

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Corona Extra BOXING

RING CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH

# Stephanie Cook

**Height:** 5 feet 6 inches
**Weight:** 115 pounds
**Measurements:** 34-26-34
**Stance:** Orthodox
**Favorite Boxer:** Muhummad Ali (currently Lucas Matthysse)
**Hometown:** Rockford, Ill.
**Current Location:** Las Vegas
**Where you've seen her:** Las Vegas ads, magazines, Miss Nevada first runner-up and in the ring

Dave Alan

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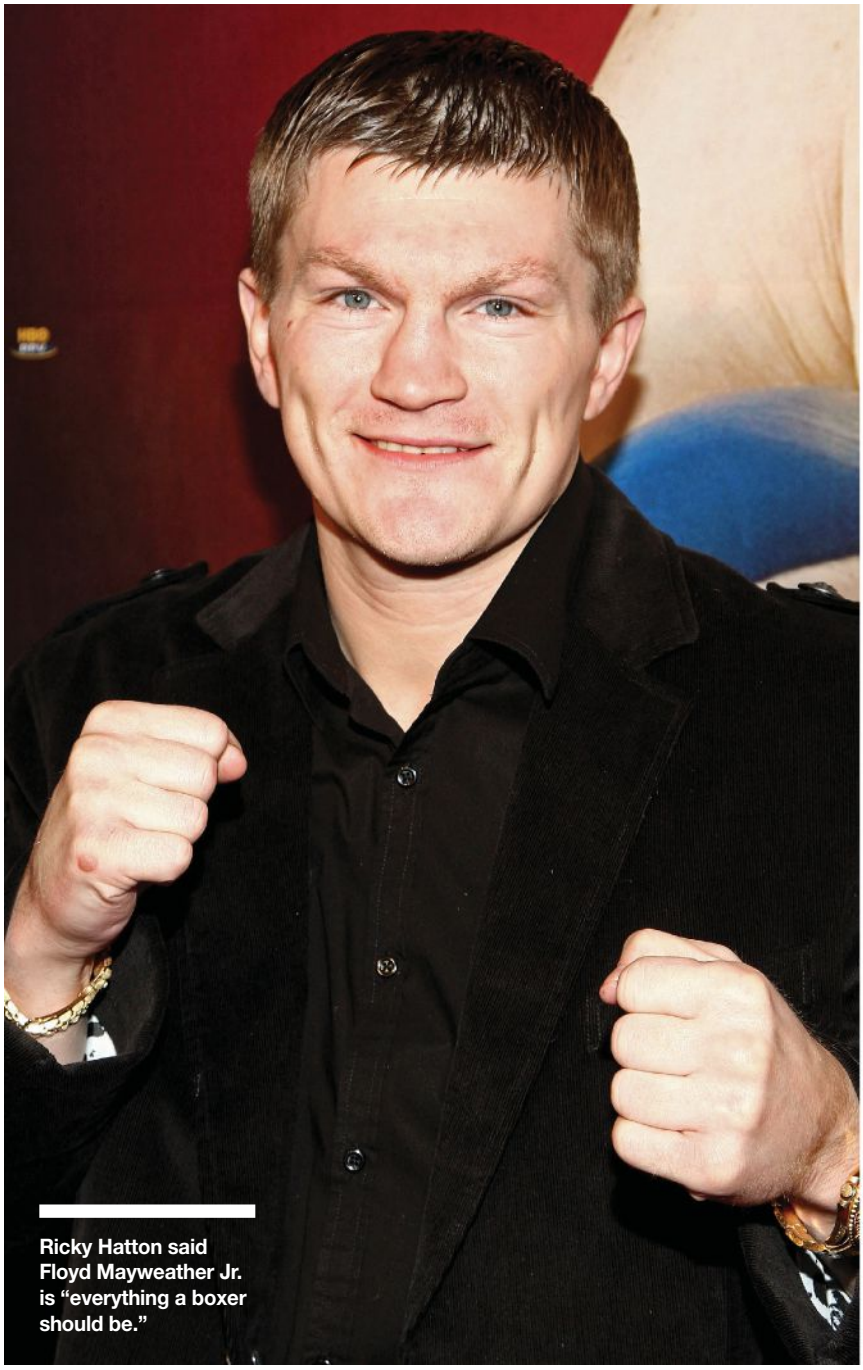
 By **Anson Wainwright**

# RICKY HATTON



Ricky Hatton said Floyd Mayweather Jr. is "everything a boxer should be."

**Ricky Hatton is arguably** the most popular British fighter of all time.

The "Hitman" regularly sold out the former MEN Arena in his hometown of Manchester and thrilled audiences across the U.K., from celebrities to working-class fans who identified so closely with him.

A good example of his popularity was his fight against Floyd Mayweather Jr. in 2007, for which an estimated 30,000 Brits poured into Las Vegas. An estimated 55,000 watched him beat Juan Lazcano at the home of his beloved Manchester City soccer team after his loss to Mayweather.

Hatton became an elite fighter when he took the IBF junior welterweight title from Kostya Tszyu in 2005, forcing the Hall of Famer to retire on his stool at the conclusion of the 11th round in what Hatton describes as his greatest victory.

He followed that by stopping Carlos Maussa in the ninth round to win the WBA belt, after which he was named THE RING Magazine Fighter of the Year for 2005.

Hatton's downfall came quickly and violently against a prime Manny Pacquiao in 2009, when the Filipino star put his opponent down twice in the first round and then separated him from his senses with a huge left hook in the second for THE RING's Knockout of the Year.

The now-35-year-old father of three remains involved in boxing as a trainer and promoter for his own company, Hatton Promotions.

He spoke with THE RING about the best he faced in 10 key categories.

## MOST SKILLFUL

**Floyd Mayweather Jr.:** I would throw five, six, seven punches at a time [and] maybe one or two would get through but he'd always get a half block on them. Probably 60-70 percent of his punches he threw landed. I was

probably throwing three or four times as many and not having the success. It was the timing and hand speed; he knew when to let the punches go. While I was going 10 to the dozen, he just weathered the storm, waited for me to slow down, and then he put his foot on the gas and found the punches at the right time. It was all right the first half of the fight. He soaked it up. Then when he knew I started to blow, I guess he found the right punches. Very clever.

## BEST JAB

**Eamonn Magee:** He was a counterpuncher, and a counterpuncher is probably style-wise the worst person for me. Mayweather's was a good jab but wasn't what you call a murderous jab. I think to keep me with my style off … I think you need a heavy jab for me to walk into. [Magee's] jab came out very fast and very solid and made me wary about attacking.

## BEST DEFENSE

**Mayweather:** When you think, sometimes I threw six, seven, sometimes eight punches at a time, sometimes every one would miss. And if I did get one or a couple of punches, he'd either get a half shoulder, half block or half dip or pull away. The shots I did catch him with he was able to take the sting out of.

## BEST CHIN

**Ben Tackie:** I could have hit him for a fortnight and nothing would have happened. He wasn't the quickest and wasn't the most talented, but he made you work for three minutes of every round. I think early on in that fight, maybe two or three rounds, I thought this is one of those fights you're not going to knock him out. … I hurt him with body shots a couple of times, but every time I hit him on the chin, I must admit I didn't see any effect.

## BEST PUNCHER

**Manny Pacquiao:** You would say Manny Pacquiao because of the destructiveness of the punch. I don't want to sound like a broken record but I don't think I had any fight in me by the time I got into the ring; I'd massively overtrained. You'd probably have to say Manny Pacquiao even having said that, for the one-punch power to end it in such a way. … I fought a fair few decent punchers. I walked into a right uppercut from Vince Phillips which was a real solid shot that shook me in the fourth round of our fight. I won that fight pretty easy, but I … didn't know where I was for a short space of time. But you'd probably have to go with Manny Pacquiao.

## FASTEST HANDS

**Mayweather:** I'd probably say Mayweather again. He was very, very quick. I stood off him, and like any fighter will tell you, we'll ease into a fight. That's what I tried to do against Mayweather. And when he hit me with that lead left hook, I though, "Jesus, I can't stand off and allow him to use this hand speed he's got. I've got to get close." But that first lead left hook really took me by surprise. I fought some fast people in the past like Luis Collazo. Eamonn Magee had very fast hands. But I could tell that was a different level.

## FASTEST FEET

**Pacquiao:** Manny Pacquiao was quite quick. Like I say, I don't think I was at my best, but when Manny Pacquiao shuffles in and shuffles out, he is very, very quick. When he shuffles in, he does so very explosively. I think that's why he took a lot of bigger men by surprise, because of his hand speed. He pulls in, pulls back and pulls back in with such ferocity. He shook bigger guys because it's not the punches you see that hurt you, it's the one's you don't that hurt you, and I think a lot of that is due to his footwork.

## SMARTEST

**Mayweather:** Floyd Mayweather by a county mile. … As I proved several times in my career, I can go flat out for the full 12. I don't think the referee allowed me to. He broke me up, stopped my rhythm and stopped me working. … I'll always look back on that fight and wonder, "What if the referee had let me fight, stay closer? But I can't help think Floyd had everything in check. It certainly seemed that way. The referee didn't help my cause, but it was as though he was waiting for me to slow that bit then he put his foot on the gas. He's very clever. It's not his work rate, and it's not how many punches he puts together, it's the time he chooses to put his foot on the gas and when he chooses to throw the punches.

## STRONGEST

**Juan Urango:** I would say Juan Urango. He wasn't very quick, he didn't have a great deal of boxing ability, he was easy to hit, but he was one of those fighters I didn't think I was gonna knock him out. But when he got close, he was the first and only [140-pound] guy I couldn't throw about.

## BEST OVERALL

**Mayweather:** I would say because he wasn't necessarily a powerhouse, he was everything a boxer should be. They always say boxing is the art of hit and not be hit, and he was the best – his timing, his defense, his hand speed. He wasn't the biggest power merchant but the best all-rounder by a country mile. I guess Manny Pacquiao was the second best guy. The fight was over that quick, and I wasn't at my best, so it was a little bit harder to gauge. When I was up against Floyd, when I was up a weight division, I felt the preparation was perfect. But, yeah, Floyd and then maybe Manny Pacquiao.

ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES

By **David Greisman**

Erislandy Lara was clearly disgusted when he heard the decision of the judges on July 12.

# LARA MUST BLAME HIMSELF

## THE CUBAN DID TOO MUCH MOVING AND NOT ENOUGH PUNCHING TO BEAT ALVAREZ

NAOKI FUKUDA

The official result aside, Canelo Alvarez didn't beat Erislandy Lara. And no matter what Lara says, he didn't beat Alvarez. Rather, the reason that the Mexican superstar took the split decision over the Cuban stylist is because Lara beat himself.

Boxing is often boiled down to the simple axiom of "hit and don't get hit." Lara dedicated far too much effort to the second part and far too little to the first. He promised to dominate Canelo, to pick him apart, bust his mouth and make him pay for what he believed was Alvarez avoiding him for years. Instead, he moved more than he threw, and it wasn't solely boxing. At times he shuffled around the ring like a rodeo clown avoiding a bull or a child deking and dodging during a schoolyard game of tag.

It was reminiscent of the way Morrade Hakkar made Bernard Hopkins chase and flail back in 2003. It can't be said that Hakkar was outboxing Hopkins. It shouldn't be said that all of Lara's movement was him outboxing Alvarez.

It was a mistake, a stubborn approach from an otherwise smart boxer who should've known better.

Lara knew that Alvarez was the house fighter, a prized moneymaker and a big star. He should've known that judges have often rewarded aggression even if it isn't overly effective and have penalized evasiveness that seems excessive.

He should've remembered this was his best chance at stardom, that exposing Alvarez and entertaining while doing it would do wonders for his career. He should've realized that averaging just nine landed punches per round (according to CompuBox), including less than five power shots per round, wouldn't be enough.

The stakes were high, yet his output was low. It doesn't matter that your defense is immaculate if your offense is imperceptible. Rather than "hit and don't get hit," this was "don't hit, don't get hit, don't get it."

Lara's mistakes came under the mission of "taking [Alvarez] to school," and in the end he left with a harsh lesson. His running took him, well, out of the running for career advancement. His lateral movement prevented forward progress. The gun-shy manner in which he used his legs led to Lara shooting himself in the foot. Lara cried robbery at the decision, but in truth he had held himself up. Alvarez averaged one fewer landed punch per round than Lara did. Nearly all went to the body. And enough rounds went into the bank.

Lara's goal shouldn't just have been to demonstrate that his foes can't hit him. He needed to show that fans can't miss him.

★

**The past year and a half for** lightweight Terence Crawford has been great. He was introduced, then spotlighted, then crowned, then elevated and exalted. Crawford's arrival and ascent have been refreshing in terms of what we want boxers to be, though his circumstances have also been a reminder of what we wish boxing were not.

Rare is the undefeated prospect who steps in on short notice and moves up in weight to take a fight that could tarnish his perfect record and hinder his marketability and opportunities. Yet Crawford had a door open for him and he walked through it, easily outpointing Breidis Prescott in his HBO debut. He returned to the network for two more wins in 2013. The last one, a decision over Andrey Klimov, was far from exciting.

Some boxers don't worry about winning ugly, just so long as they win. They can get away with it because they have powerful promoters and managers, or because a network is in love with them and wants to push them

as a future star. They don't take chances or bend in contractual negotiations. Klimov's passivity was largely to blame for the boring nature of the bout. Crawford sought not to endanger himself, and that meant he didn't entertain us.

He has made up for it since.

Crawford traveled to Scotland in March to defeat Ricky Burns in hostile territory, winning a world title at 135 pounds. He was rewarded with a bout in his hometown of Omaha, Nebraska, going to battle with Yuriorkis Gamboa on HBO and coming out with an exhilarating ninth-round technical knockout.

His future would be even brighter if not for the politics of the sport.

There isn't much depth to the lightweight division. Burns had struggled mightily in his two fights before Crawford and was fortunate to still have his title. Gamboa had done little of note at lightweight and had not fought in a year. We can tell that Crawford is talented, but we want to see how he stacks up against other talented opponents.

Yet the existence of four major sanctioning bodies, each with its own belt, further dilutes the depth, as it often limits the possibility that the top guys in each division will face each other. There is no mandate putting them on a collision course; they tend only to meet if the money involved is worth the risk of losing their title and stature.

And despite the thawing of relations between Bob Arum of Top Rank (which promotes Crawford) and Oscar De La Hoya of Golden Boy Promotions (which works with several boxers at 135 and 140), it's still unclear if and when we'll see their fighters face off.

Promoters and networks keep introducing us to boxers as the future stars we've been waiting for. Unfortunately, the nature of the business means we're kept waiting to see just how true those claims really are.

★

THE RING doesn't recognize the World Boxing Association's "regular" title, not when there's a "super" champion in the same division. That is the case at heavyweight, where Wladimir Klitschko reigns for the WBA and over all other big men.

This magazine's policy doesn't preclude us from calling out sanctioning-body idiocy, however.

The WBA's new "regular" titleholder is Ruslan Chagaev, who defeated Fres Oquendo in July to win the vacant trinket.

The title fight between Bermane Stiverne and Chris Arreola for the vacant World Boxing Council belt in May was bad enough given their limited accomplishments. Deontay Wilder's upcoming challenge of Stiverne is similarly dubious, given that the only silver lining to Wilder's weak resume is his heavy hands.

But at least those fights are between relatively fresh faces pairing up to determine who still belongs. Neither Chagaev nor Oquendo has belonged in ages. Chagaev hasn't beaten a Top 10 heavyweight in more than seven years. Oquendo never has, and the last time he was competitive with one was in the previous decade.

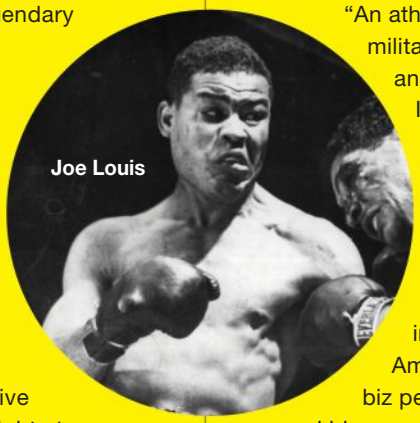
This is par for the course in boxing, sadly. The only truly surprising thing is that Oquendo somehow received another title shot while Evander Holyfield didn't. RING

A lack of depth in the lightweight division limits the options of Terence Crawford (left).

By **Brian Harty**

# OVERDUE

Rags to riches, broken racial barriers, legendary ring battles, Nazis ... why hasn't Hollywood jumped on the story of **Joe Louis**? The green light could finally be aglow.


Joe Louis

Producers **Fran Kirmser** and **Tony Ponturo** have reportedly acquired the exclusive theatrical and film rights to Louis' life story via undisclosed terms. The duo is responsible for a few sports-related Broadway shows, including "Magic/Bird" (about basketball icons **Magic Johnson** and **Larry Bird**), "Bronx Bombers" (the **New York Yankees**) and "Lombardi" (Packers coach **Vince Lombardi**). Those first two productions somehow flopped, but "Lombardi" had a decent run and is now being adapted into a movie.

Louis, whom you will find on Page 56 listed as the No. 5 pound-for-pound fighter of the modern era, is of course known between these covers as the holder of a still-unmatched streak of 25 world title defenses and more commonly for two bouts against Hitler-touted heavyweight **Max Schmeling**, all while dealing with the pestilence of Jim Crow in the U.S. He has long been a subject for authors, documentarians, civil-rights historians and sculptors but has been featured as a movie character only a few times. There is the forgettable "The Joe Louis Story" from 1953 but the most significant instance is probably a fleeting appearance in "Raging Bull." He played himself in a handful of films, the strangest of which is surely an obscure 1970 curiosity called "The Phynx," which is summarized on imbd.com like this: "An athlete, a campus militant, a black model, and an American Indian are picked by a computer (shaped like a woman) to form a rock group called the Phynx and go on tour in Albania where American show biz people have been kidnapped by Communists."

The last owner of the movie rights was director **Spike Lee**, who obtained them from Louis' son, Joe Louis Barrow Jr. in 2000. Lee tried for years to make a movie called "Save Us, Joe Louis," developed with the participation of legendary boxing writers **Bert Sugar** and **Budd Schulberg**, but the stars never aligned. There is some speculation that the Kirmser/Ponturo deal might be the catalyst.

From "Bum of the Month" to "Arrest of the Month," **Amir Khan** was the latest to join the club. He was taken in for an alleged assault on two 19-year-old men in Bolton, England, but was quickly bailed out and the charges were dropped three days later.

Charges of a bit more serious nature were pinned on Australian cruiserweight **Adam Watt**. He was arrested as an alleged "accessory before the fact" to the murder of a man set to give witness testimony against an infamous cocaine ring called the Golden Gun syndicate. Watt, whose final pro record was 14-4 (14 knockouts) challenged for the WBO title in 2000 but was knocked out in five rounds by **Johnny Nelson**.

Also Down Under, light heavyweight **Adrian Taihia** could face life imprisonment after being charged with cooking meth in New Zealand. He was a former contestant on "The Contender" in Australia and had been working his way up the regional title ranks at the time of his arrest.

The WBC presented the widow of late Mexican featherweight prospect **Oscar Gonzalez** with a "life insurance check" for $50,000 on July 1, according to the sanctioning body. Gonzalez (23-3, 14 KOs), 23, died after sustaining brain injuries in a 10th-round knockout loss to **Jesus Galicia** five months earlier.

**Floyd Mayweather Jr.**'s application for a New York promoter's license was approved, supplying more "what does it all mean?" fodder to those trying to solve the Mayweather/Al Haymon/Richard Schaefer enigma. Mayweather quickly put his credentials on display during the Canelo Alvarez-Erislandy Lara fight week by characteristically co-opting the spotlight to announce his rematch with **Marcos Maidana**.

UFC President **Dana White** created his own spotlight by speculating that female bantamweight champ **Ronda Rousey** would easily take Mayweather down in a street fight. Mayweather (who insists he already has his hands full with an MMA fighter in Maidana) was asked about the possibility of a Rousey matchup during a roundtable with reporters in Washington, D.C., and replied, "I don't even know who he is." Mayweather apologized to the Queen of the Armbar a few days later at the ESPY awards, where everybody knows who he is, as he picked up the "Best Fighter" award for the sixth time since its re-naming from "Best Boxer" in 2007. The other two were won by Manny Pacquiao.

CRAWFORD: CHRIS FARINA / TOP RANK; LOUIS: THE RING MAGAZINE

# PERFECT EXECUTION

Boxing Lessons From
**Bernard Hopkins**

# BLOCK AND COUNTER

**‘COUNTERING ALWAYS TELLS AN OPPONENT THAT SOMETHING IS COMING BACK AT HIM’**

**Good boxing demands good** technique. A missed step here, an off-balance shot there, and you could be looking up from the canvas. The sport is as much about foot positioning as it is punching power. It’s a ballet of fists and feet, of the whole body functioning as one. To achieve that, one must master the fundamentals.

Perhaps no one today has a better understanding of the basics than future Hall of Famer Bernard Hopkins, which is why we asked him to play the leading role in a resurrected version of “Perfect Execution.”

Each month in THE RING Magazine, Hopkins will demonstrate a particular skill and explain how to execute it. Photographs of Hopkins and assistant Danny Davis will help you understand the moves.

Also, for the first time, we will have an accompanying video on our website, RingTV.com, which will allow you to watch and listen as Hopkins imparts his wisdom.

This month: block and counter.

“Countering always tells an opponent that something is coming back at him. You block and stab,” Hopkins said. »

JANISE VALENTIN

### *IT'S BACK*

**Bernard Hopkins' popular how-to series on boxing fundamentals has returned and will appear each month in THE RING. We've added a video component to the feature. To watch and listen to Hopkins giving instruction, just scan the QR code below or go to http://bit.ly/perfectexecution-blockandcounter**

Stage 1.

Stage 2.

**Stage 2. BLOCK AND COUNTER LEFT HOOK.** I like to make a guy come forward. Notice I always keep my chin tucked into my chest ❶. As Danny comes forward, you can do so many different things off of that. Here, Danny tries to hit me with a right ❷. I catch the right and fire a left hook ❸. The importance of getting this punch off is about timing the guy and going over his punch with the same motion he's throwing it. You have to get there first.

**Stage 2. BLOCK AND COUNTER WITH THE JAB.** (Not pictured.) If the guy comes in with a jab he may be looking for me to jab with his jab. I can surprise him with the hook, because it's a punch he won't see coming. Or, I can catch his jab and jab back. I like to call this the shovel or counter jab, because you're going to shovel your jab in real hard like a stiff jab, or shotgun jab, through his defense. Again, you're using his momentum against him.

JANISE VALENTIN

**Stage 3. BLOCK AND COUNTER BODY/HEAD PUNCH.**

The options are there to block and counter to the body or the head if you have that initial block. It's very important to make that first block A. It's the same way with the Romans back in ancient times and how they used their shields and swords. I have my guard up high, my shield, and I use my sword down low to the body B, where they can't see. As I'm blocking you, I'm stabbing you. It opens the door to make your opponent think about what could be coming next. You can do the same thing making the block C with a head counter D.

**Stage 4. WHAT NOT TO DO.**

Stop punching. You can't just stand there. It's as simple as that. If he doesn't respect your ability to counterpunch, he's going to continue punching. Anyone in their right mind can't take punishment without getting some rewards back. If they don't find another way to make progress, that's a problem, especially if they run into someone who is constantly countering them. The only way to gain their respect is by countering back.

Terence Crawford earned the right to strut by stopping Yuriorkis Gamboa.

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH

# TERENCE CRAWFORD

By **Michael Rosenthal**

**Sometimes it takes only** a round or two in a single fight to realize that a boxer is truly special. That's what happened with Terence Crawford on June 28.

The WBO lightweight champ initially had difficulty coping with the quickness of challenger Yuriorkis Gamboa in Omaha, Nebraska, Crawford's hometown. However, once he adjusted by the fourth or fifth round, he took our collective

CHRIS FARINA / TOP RANK

breath away and destroyed his undersized and overmatched foe with cold efficiency.

Crawford put Gamboa down in the fifth, eighth and twice in the ninth, the last time prompting merciful referee Genaro Rodriguez to stop the thrilling fight as Crawford's fans went wild.

Crawford (24-0, 17 knockouts) had already recorded some important victories. Most notably, he went to Scotland in March and took Ricky Burns' 135-pound title by a convincing unanimous decision.

The Gamboa fight was a step up, though. The 2004 Olympic gold medalist was naturally smaller than Crawford and had been inactive but was undefeated and seen as a dangerous threat because of his talent and experience.

Plus, the fight took place before a large audience on HBO. Crawford had never had this type of opponent and stage to demonstrate his considerable capabilities.

To say that he took full advantage of the opportunity is an understatement. Crawford demonstrated poise and fire, skill and crushing power. And, most important, he gave the fans a heaping dose of drama that they're not likely to forget.

No one will want to miss Terence Crawford's next fight.

## RATINGS ANALYSIS

***POUND FOR POUND:*** No change.

***HEAVYWEIGHTS:*** No change.

***CRUISERWEIGHTS:*** No. 9-rated Mateusz Masternak lost a split decision to Congolese cruiserweight Youri Kalenga (unrated at the time) in Monte Carlo. Masternak fell out and Kalenga came in at No. 10, pushing Thabiso Mchunu (No. 10 last month) up a notch.

***LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS:*** No change.

***SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS:*** Mikkel Kessler (No. 2 last month) has been inactive for more than a year and has no fight scheduled, so he was removed. With the Viking Warrior gone, everyone from No. 3 Arthur Abraham to No. 10 J'Leon Love moved up and Gilberto Ramirez, who impressively stopped Junior Talipeau in Round 1 on the Guillermo Rigondeaux-Sod Kokietgym card in Macau, China, brought his 29-0 record to the No. 10 slot.

***MIDDLEWEIGHTS:*** No change.

***JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS:*** No change.

***WELTERWEIGHTS:*** Devon Alexander (unrated last month) bounced back from his loss to Shawn Porter last December with a comfortable decision over the always-courageous Jesus Soto Karass (unrated). Alexander moved in at No. 10, replacing Paulie Malignaggi, who may have seen the ratings for the last time but never count the Magic Man out.

***JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS:*** No change.

***LIGHTWEIGHTS:*** Dejan Zlaticanin (unrated) kicked Ricky Burns (No. 4 last month) off the list with a split-decision win on the Scotsman's home turf. Burns' exit triggered a shuffle in the ratings with No. 5 Kevin Mitchell dropping to No. 7, those ranked Nos. 6 to 8 (Daniel Estrada, Omar Figueroa and Juan Diaz) gaining two spots each and Nos. 9 and 10 (Jorge Linares and Sharif Bogere) gaining one apiece. Once-beaten Canadian Dierry Jean filled the vacancy at the bottom.

***JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS:*** Undefeated Mexican Francisco Vargas displaced Javier Fortuna at No. 10 after stopping former two-division titleholder Juan Manuel Lopez (unrated) in the third round.

***FEATHERWEIGHTS:*** Following his harsh learning experience at the hands of Orlando Salido, Vasyl Lomachenko (No. 10 last month) rekindled his "special" status with a split-decision win over talented but unproven Gary Russell Jr. (unrated). Lomachenko jumped to No. 6, pushing everyone else down a notch. A few weeks later Billy Dib (No. 7 last month) moved up to 130 pounds, creating a space for Filipino contender Marvin Sonsona at No. 10.

***JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS:*** No change.

***BANTAMWEIGHTS:*** No change.

***JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS:*** No change.

***FLYWEIGHTS:*** No change.

***JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS:*** No change.

***STRAWWEIGHTS:*** No change.

Chad Dawson (right) rebounded from consecutive losses to stop George Blades in one round in June.

**THE FIGURES UNDER THE FIGHTERS' NAMES INDICATE:** WEEKS IN THE RATINGS • COUNTRY • RECORD

## HEAVYWEIGHTS
*WEIGHT UNLIMITED*

**C WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
376 • Ukraine • 62-3-0 (52 KOs)

**1. KUBRAT PULEV**
143 • Bulgaria • 20-0-0 (11 KOs)

**2. ALEXANDER POVETKIN**
350 • Russia • 27-1-0 (19 KOs)

**3. BERMANE STIVERNE**
64 • Canada • 24-1-1 (21 KOs)

**4. TYSON FURY**
125 • U.K. • 22-0-0 (16 KOs)

**5. VYACHESLAV GLAZKOV**
19 • Ukraine • 17-0-1 (11 KOs)

**6. TOMASZ ADAMEK**
221 • Poland • 49-3-0 (29 KOs)

**7. CHRIS ARREOLA**
45 • U.S. • 35-4-0 (31 KOs)

**8. DEONTAY WILDER**
35 • U.S. • 31-0-0 (31 KOs)

**9. BRYANT JENNINGS**
18 • U.S. • 18-0-0 (10 KOs)

**10. MIKE PEREZ**
7 • Cuba • 20-0-1 (12 KOs)

## CRUISERWEIGHTS
*WEIGHT LIMIT: 200 LBS*

**C YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ**
145 • Cuba • 28-1-0 (14 KOs)

**1. MARCO HUCK**
122 • Germany • 37-2-1 (26 KOs)

**2. KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK**
373 • Poland • 49-2-1 (35 KOs)

**3. DENIS LEBEDEV**
231 • Russia • 25-2-0 (19 KOs)

**4. OLA AFOLABI**
278 • U.K. • 20-3-4 (9 KOs)

**5. GRIGORY DROZD**
42 • Russia • 38-1-0 (27 KOs)

**6. ILUNGA MAKABU**
54 • Congo • 17-1-0 (16 KOs)

**7. DMYTRO KUCHER**
87 • Ukraine • 21-1-0 (15 KOs)

**8. FIRAT ARSLAN**
88 • Germany • 34-7-2 (21 KOs)

**9. THABISO MCHUNU**
131 • S. Africa • 16-1-0 (11 KOs)

**10. YOURI KALENGA**
40 • Congo • 20-1-0 (13 KOs)

## LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
*WEIGHT LIMIT: 175 LBS*

**C ADONIS STEVENSON**
59 • Canada • 24-1-0 (20 KOs)

**1. BERNARD HOPKINS**
420 • U.S. • 55-6-2 (32 KOs)

**2. SERGEY KOVALEV**
78 • Russia • 24-0-1 (22 KOs)

**3. JEAN PASCAL**
54 • Canada • 29-2-1 (17 KOs)

**4. JUERGEN BRAEHMER**
105 • Germany • 44-2-0 (32 KOs)

**5. CHAD DAWSON**
420 • U.S. • 32-3-0 (18 KOs)

**6. BEIBUT SHUMENOV**
32 • Kaz. • 14-2-0 (9 KOs)

**7. TAVORIS CLOUD**
252 • U.S. • 24-2-0 (19 KOs)

**8. ISAAC CHILEMBA**
112 • Malawi • 22-2-2 (9 KOs)

**9. ELEIDER ALVAREZ**
19 • Colombia • 15-0-0 (8 KOs)

**10. ANDRZEJ FONFARA**
10 • Poland • 25-3-0 (15 KOs)

## SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
*WEIGHT LIMIT: 168 LBS*

**C ANDRE WARD**
271 • U.S. • 27-0-0 (14 KOs)

**1. CARL FROCH**
422 • U.K. • 33-2-0 (24 KOs)

**2. ARTHUR ABRAHAM**
247 • Armenia • 40-4-0 (28 KOs)

**3. ROBERT STIEGLITZ**
255 • Russia • 46-4-0 (26 KOs)

**4. GEORGE GROVES**
259 • U.K. • 19-2-0 (15 KOs)

**5. SAKIO BIKA**
379 • Cameroon • 32-5-3 (21 KOs)

**6. JAMES DEGALE**
59 • U.K. • 19-1-0 (13 KOs)

**7. THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN**
166 • S. Africa • 22-0-2 (13 KOs)

**8. MAXIM VLASOV**
23 • Russia • 29-1-0 (14 KOs)

**9. J'LEON LOVE**
12 • U.S. • 18-0-0 (10 KOs)

**10. GILBERTO RAMIREZ**
1 • Mexico • 29-0-0 (23 KOs)

STEPHEN DUNN/GETTY IMAGES

## MIDDLEWEIGHTS
*WEIGHT LIMIT: 160 LBS*

**C MIGUEL COTTO**
7 • P.R. • 39-4-0 (32 KOs)

**1. GENNADY GOLOVKIN**
135 • Kaz. • 29-0-0 (26 KOs)

**2. DANIEL GEALE**
264 • Australia • 30-2-0 (16 KOs)

**3. PETER QUILLIN**
111 • U.S. • 31-0-0 (22 KOs)

**4. SERGIO MARTINEZ**
221 • Argentina • 51-3-2 (28 KOs)

**5. SAM SOLIMAN**
8 • Australia • 44-11-0 (18 KOs)

**6. FELIX STURM**
567 • Germany • 39-4-2 (18 KOs)

**7. MATTHEW MACKLIN**
250 • U.K. • 30-5-0 (20 KOs)

**8. MARCO ANTONIO RUBIO**
51 • Mexico • 59-6-1 (51 KOs)

**9. MARTIN MURRAY**
136 • U.K. • 28-1-1 (12 KOs)

**10. HASSAN N'DAM N'JIKAM**
27 • Cameroon • 30-1-0 (18 KOs)

## JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
*WEIGHT LIMIT: 154 LBS*

**C FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
114 • U.S. • 46-0-0 (26 KOs)

**1. CANELO ALVAREZ**
190 • Mexico • 44-1-1 (31 KOs)

**2. ERISLANDY LARA**
157 • Cuba • 19-2-2 (12 KOs)

**3. CARLOS MOLINA**
157 • Mexico • 22-5-2 (6 KOs)

**4. AUSTIN TROUT**
111 • U.S. • 26-2-0 (14 KOs)

**5. DEMETRIUS ANDRADE**
66 • U.S. • 21-0-0 (14 KOs)

**6. VANES MARTIROSYAN**
239 • U.S. • 34-1-1 (21 KOs)

**7. WILLIE NELSON**
65 • U.S. • 22-1-1 (13 KOs)

**8. JERMELL CHARLO**
37 • U.S. • 24-0-0 (11 KOs)

**9. ISHE SMITH**
38 • U.S. • 26-6-0 (12 KOs)

**10. JERMALL CHARLO**
6 • U.S. • 18-0-0 (14 KOs)

## WELTERWEIGHTS
*WEIGHT LIMIT: 147 LBS*

**C FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
147 • U.S. • 46-0-0 (26 KOs)

**1. MANNY PACQUIAO**
243 • Phil. • 56-5-2 (38 KOs)

**2. TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
111 • U.S. • 31-1-0 (12 KOs)

**3. JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
83 • Mexico • 56-7-1 (40 KOs)

**4. SHAWN PORTER**
33 • U.S. • 24-0-1 (15 KOs)

**5. KELL BROOK**
167 • U.K. • 32-0-0 (22 KOs)

**6. MARCOS MAIDANA**
32 • Argentina • 35-4-0 (31 KOs)

**7. KEITH THURMAN**
72 • U.S. • 23-0-0 (21 KOs)

**8. ROBERT GUERRERO**
103 • U.S. • 32-2-1 (18 KOs)

**9. AMIR KHAN**
12 • U.K. • 29-3-0 (19 KOs)

**10. DEVON ALEXANDER**
115 • U.S. • 26-2-0 (14 KOs)

## JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
*WEIGHT LIMIT: 140 LBS*

**C DANNY GARCIA**
169 • U.S. • 28-0-0 (16 KOs)

**1. LUCAS MATTHYSSE**
169 • Argentina • 35-3-0 (33 KOs)

**2. LAMONT PETERSON**
73 • U.S. • 32-2-1 (16 KOs)

**3. CHRIS ALGIERI**
6 • U.S. • 20-0-0 (8 KOs)

**4. RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV**
84 • Russia • 23-2-0 (16 KOs)

**5. MIKE ALVARADO**
148 • U.S. • 34-3-0 (23 KOs)

**6. ZAB JUDAH**
175 • U.S. • 42-9-0 (29 KOs)

**7. ADRIEN BRONER**
12 • U.S. • 28-1-0 (22 KOs)

**8. JESSIE VARGAS**
15 • U.S. • 24-0-0 (9 KOs)

**9. VIKTOR POSTOL**
48 • Ukraine • 26-0-0 (11 KOs)

**10. KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV**
107 • Russia • 19-1-0 (9 KOs)

## LIGHTWEIGHTS
*WEIGHT LIMIT: 135 LBS*

**C (VACANT)**

**1. MIGUEL VAZQUEZ**
203 • Mexico • 34-3-0 (13 KOs)

**2. TERENCE CRAWFORD**
54 • U.S. • 24-0-0 (17 KOs)

**3. RAYMUNDO BELTRAN**
102 • Mexico • 29-6-1 (17 KOs)

**4. DANIEL ESTRADA**
81 • Mexico • 32-2-1 (24 KOs)

**5. OMAR FIGUEROA**
23 • U.S. • 23-0-1 (17 KOs)

**6. JUAN DIAZ**
20 • U.S. • 39-4-0 (19 KOs)

**7. KEVIN MITCHELL**
155 • U.K. • 38-2-0 (28 KOs)

**8. JORGE LINARES**
15 • Venezuela • 36-3-0 (23 KOs)

**9. SHARIF BOGERE**
3 • Uganda • 25-1-0 (17 KOs)

**10. DIERRY JEAN**
8 • Canada • 26-1-0 (18 KOs)

## JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
*WEIGHT LIMIT: 130 LBS*

**C (VACANT)**

**1. TAKASHI UCHIYAMA**
244 • Japan • 21-0-1 (17 KOs)

**2. MIKEY GARCIA**
37 • U.S. • 34-0-0 (28 KOs)

**3. RANCES BARTHELEMY**
29 • Cuba • 20-0-0 (12 KOs)

**4. TAKASHI MIURA**
67 • Japan • 27-2-2 (20 KOs)

**5. JUAN CARLOS BURGOS**
139 • Mexico • 30-2-2 (20 KOs)

**6. ROMAN MARTINEZ**
304 • P.R. • 27-2-2 (16 KOs)

**7. ARGENIS MENDEZ**
217 • Dom. Rep. • 21-3-1 (11 KOs)

**8. DIEGO MAGDALENO**
161 • U.S. • 26-1-0 (10 KOs)

**9. SERGIO THOMPSON**
20 • Mexico • 29-3-0 (26 KOs)

**10. FRANCISCO VARGAS**
8 • Mexico • 20-0-1 (14 KOs)

## FEATHERWEIGHTS
*WEIGHT LIMIT: 126 LBS*

**C (VACANT)**

**1. JHONNY GONZALEZ**
170 • Mexico • 56-8-0 (47 KOs)

**2. ABNER MARES**
63 • Mexico • 27-1-1 (14 KOs)

**3. NICHOLAS WALTERS**
77 • Jamaica • 24-0-0 (20 KOs)

**4. NONITO DONAIRE**
30 • Phil. • 33-2-0 (21 KOs)

**5. EVGENY GRADOVICH**
72 • Russia • 19-0-0 (9 KOs)

**6. VASYL LOMACHENKO**
33 • Ukraine • 2-1-0 (1 KO)*

**7. SIMPIWE VETYEKA**
154 • S. Africa • 26-3-0 (16 KOs)

**8. RONNY RIOS**
21 • U.S. • 23-0-0 (10 KOs)

**9. LEE SELBY**
19 • U.K. • 19-1-0 (7 KOs)

**10. MARVIN SONSONA**
12 • Phil. • 19-1-0 (15 KOs)

## JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
*WEIGHT LIMIT: 122 LBS*

**C GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX**
192 • Cuba • 14-0-0 (9 KOs)

**1. CARL FRAMPTON**
95 • U.K. • 18-0-0 (13 KOs)

**2. LEO SANTA CRUZ**
63 • U.S. • 27-0-1 (15 KOs)

**3. KIKO MARTINEZ**
48 • Spain • 31-4-0 (23 KOs)

**4. SCOTT QUIGG**
85 • U.K. • 28-0-2 (21 KOs)

**5. VICTOR TERRAZAS**
65 • Mexico • 37-3-1 (21 KOs)

**6. CRISTIAN MIJARES**
50 • Mexico • 50-8-2 (25 KOs)

**7. JEFFREY MATHEBULA**
120 • S. Africa • 27-5-2 (14 KOs)

**8. JHONATAN ROMERO**
64 • Colombia • 23-1-0 (12 KOs)

**9. GENESIS SERVANIA**
19 • Phil. • 24-0-0 (10 KOs)

**10. CHRIS AVALOS**
8 • U.S. • 24-2-0 (18 KOs)

## HOW OUR RATINGS ARE COMPILED

Championship vacancies can be filled in the following two ways: 1. THE RING's Nos. 1 and 2 contenders fight one another; 2. If the Nos. 1 and 2 contenders chose not to fight one another and either of them fights No. 3, No. 4 or No. 5, the winner may be awarded THE RING belt if the Editorial Board deems the contenders worthy.

A champion can lose his belt in six situations: 1. The Champion loses a fight in the weight class in which he is champion; 2. The Champion moves to another weight class; 3. The Champion does not schedule a fight in any weight class for 18 months; 4. The Champion does not schedule a fight at his championship weight for 18 months (even if he fights at another weight); 5. The Champion does not schedule a fight with a Top-5 contender from any weight class for two years; 6. The Champion retires.

THE RING Ratings Chairman Chuck Giampa considers input from the Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world but has final say on all changes. That applies to both the pound-for-pound and divisional ratings.

*Records provided by boxrec.com*

**** The record shown for Vasyl Lomachenko is the one listed by boxrec.com. However, Lomachenko was paid to participate in the World Series of Boxing six times during 2013, with a record of 6-0.***

# THE RING RATINGS

## BANTAMWEIGHTS
*WEIGHT LIMIT: 118 LBS*

C (VACANT)

1. **ANSELMO MORENO**
327 • Panama • 35-2-1 (12 KOs)
2. **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA**
140 • Japan • 21-0-2 (16 KOs)
3. **KOKI KAMEDA**
185 • Japan • 32-1-0 (17 KOs)
4. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
180 • Phil. • 34-3-3 (20 KOs)
5. **HUGO RUIZ**
116 • Mexico • 34-2-0 (30 KOs)
6. **JOSEPH AGBEKO**
69 • Ghana • 29-5-0 (22 KOs)
7. **JAMIE MCDONNELL**
63 • U.K. • 24-2-1 (11 KOs)
8. **TOMOKI KAMEDA**
50 • Japan • 30-0-0 (19 KOs)
9. **JULIO CEJA**
95 • Mexico • 27-1-0 (25 KOs)
10. **RYOSUKE IWASA**
17 • Japan • 17-1-0 (10 KOs)

## JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
*WEIGHT LIMIT: 115 LBS*

C (VACANT)

1. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
217 • Argentina • 42-1-2 (23 KOs)
2. **CARLOS CUADRAS**
114 • Mexico • 30-0-0 (24 KOs)
3. **SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI**
63 • Thailand • 27-4-1 (25 KOs)
4. **ZOLANI TETE**
34 • S. Africa • 19-3-0 (16 KOs)
5. **JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ JR.**
126 • Mexico • 17-2-1 (9 KOs)
6. **ARTHUR VILLANUEVA**
65 • Phil. • 25-0-0 (14 KOs)
7. **OLEYDONG SITHSAMERCHAI**
93 • Thailand • 54-1-1 (20 KOs)
8. **FELIPE ORUCUTA**
61 • Mexico • 29-2-0 (24 KOs)
9. **MCJOE ARROYO**
6 • P.R. • 15-0-0 (8 KOs)
10. **KOHEI KONO**
12 • Japan • 30-8-0 (13 KOs)

## FLYWEIGHTS
*WEIGHT LIMIT: 112 LBS*

C **AKIRA YAEGASHI**
67 • Japan • 20-3-0 (10 KOs)

1. **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
37 • Nicaragua • 39-0-0 (33 KOs)
2. **JUAN FRANCISCO ESTRADA**
67 • Mexico • 26-2-0 (19 KOs)
3. **BRIAN VILORIA**
156 • U.S. • 34-4-0 (20 KOs)
4. **EDGAR SOSA**
114 • Mexico • 50-8-0 (30 KOs)
5. **JUAN CARLOS REVECO**
142 • Argentina • 34-1-0 (18 KOs)
6. **MORUTI MTHALANE**
19 • S. Africa • 30-2-0 (20 KOs)
7. **AMNAT RUENROENG**
11 • Thailand • 13-0-0 (5 KOs)
8. **TOSHIYUKI IGARASHI**
140 • Japan • 18-2-1 (11 KOs)
9. **GIOVANI SEGURA**
38 • Mexico • 32-3-1 (28 KOs)
10. **MILAN MELINDO**
6 • Phil. • 31-1-0 (12 KOs)

## JR. FLYWEIGHTS
*WEIGHT LIMIT: 108 LBS*

C **DONNIE NIETES**
144 • Phil. • 33-1-4 (19 KOs)

1. **JOHNRIEL CASIMERO**
126 • Phil. • 20-2-0 (12 KOs)
2. **KAZUTO IOKA**
81 • Japan • 14-1-0 (9 KOs)
3. **MOISES FUENTES**
72 • Mexico • 19-2-1 (10 KOs)
4. **NAOYA INOUE**
47 • Japan • 6-0-0 (5 KOs)
5. **ADRIAN HERNANDEZ**
167 • Mexico • 29-3-1 (18 KOs)
6. **PEDRO GUEVARA**
68 • Mexico • 22-1-1 (14 KOs)
7. **FELIX ALVARADO**
70 • Nicaragua • 18-2-0 (15 KOs)
8. **ALBERTO ROSSEL**
64 • Peru • 32-8-0 (13 KOs)
9. **TAKUMA INOUE**
16 • Japan • 2-0-0 (0 KOs)
10. **RANDY PETALCORIN**
11 • Phil. • 21-1-1 (16 KOs)

## STRAWWEIGHTS
*WEIGHT LIMIT: 105 LBS*

C (VACANT)

1. **HEKKIE BUDLER**
95 • S. Africa • 26-1-0 (9 KOs)
2. **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN**
160 • Thailand • 35-0-0 (11 KOs)
3. **DENVER CUELLO**
533 • Phil. • 33-5-6 (21 KOs)
4. **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA**
68 • Japan • 27-6-0 (10 KOs)
5. **CARLOS BUITRAGO**
91 • Nicaragua • 27-0-1 (16 KOs)
6. **FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ**
18 • Mexico • 14-2-0 (10 KOs)
7. **OSVALDO NOVOA**
24 • Mexico • 14-4-1 (9 KOs)
8. **MERLITO SABILLO**
53 • Phil. • 23-1-1 (12 KOs)
9. **RYUJI HARA**
46 • Japan • 18-0-0 (10 KOs)
10. **JESUS SILVESTRE**
52 • Mexico • 28-5-0 (20 KOs)

# POUND FOR POUND

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
144 • U.S. • 46-0-0 (26 KOs)
2. **ANDRE WARD**
166 • U.S. • 27-0-0 (14 KOs)
3. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
200 • Ukraine • 62-3-0 (52 KOs)
4. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
551 • Phil. • 56-5-2 (38 KOs)
5. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
97 • U.S. • 31-1-0 (12 KOs)
6. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
376 • Mexico • 56-7-1 (40 KOs)
7. **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX**
47 • Cuba • 14-0-0 (9 KOs)
8. **CARL FROCH**
32 • U.K. • 33-2-0 (24 KOs)
9. **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
7 • Nicaragua • 39-0-0 (33 KOs)
10. **CANELO ALVAREZ**
60 • Mexico • 44-1-1 (31 KOs)

**THE RING POLICY ON RATED BOXERS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS**

THE RING will remove from its ratings any rated boxer — including a champion — if such boxer at some point undergoes drug testing (Olympic-style or otherwise) and that boxer tests positive for a performance-enhancing drug.

In the event that a boxer has undergone testing in which the boxer provides two samples ("A" and "B") and the boxer's "A" and subsequent "B" samples test positive for a performance-enhancing drug or if his "A" sample tests positive and he waives his right to have the "B" sample tested then the boxer shall immediately be removed from the ratings.

A boxer whose "A" sample tested positive and is awaiting the results of his "B" sample will not be allowed to fight for a championship or rise in the ratings.

A boxer who is removed because of a positive test will have the opportunity to earn his way back into the ratings after any suspension period is completed.

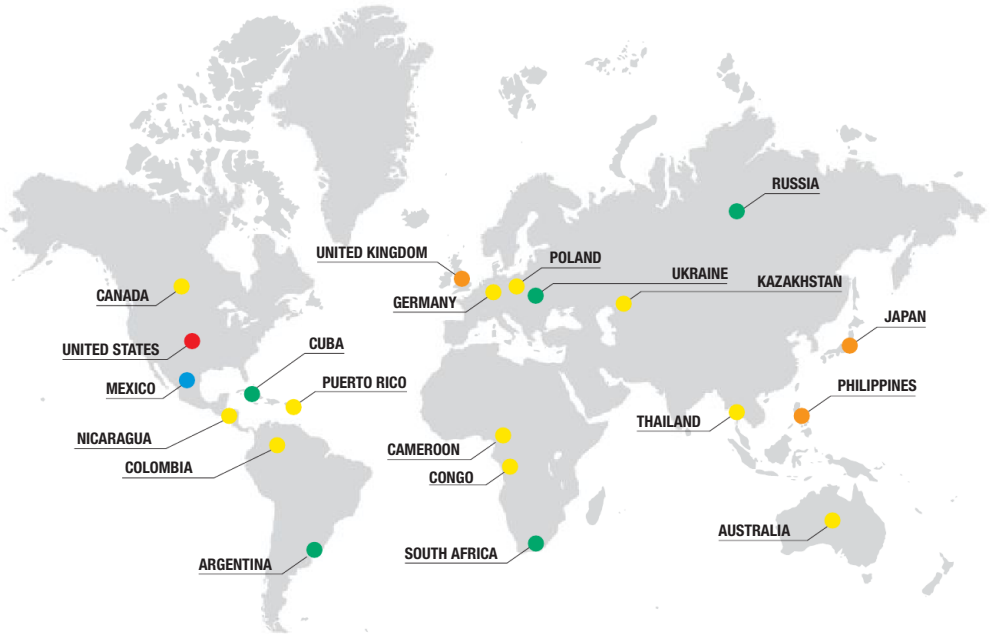
A boxer who is dropped also may be reinstated if the testing agency subsequently reverses its decision or a court of competent jurisdiction finds that the test result was invalid.

# RATED FIGHTERS BY COUNTRY

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| UNITED STATES | 39* | ▲ 1 |
| MEXICO | 29 | ▲ 1 |
| UNITED KINGDOM | 14 | ▼ 2 |
| JAPAN | 14 | ▼ 1 |
| PHILIPPINES | 12 | ▲ 2 |
| RUSSIA | 9 | |
| SOUTH AFRICA | 7 | |
| ARGENTINA | 5 | |
| CUBA | 5 | |
| UKRAINE | 5 | |
| CANADA | 4 | |
| GERMANY | 4 | |
| THAILAND | 4 | |
| NICARAGUA | 3 | |
| POLAND | 3 | ▼ 1 |
| PUERTO RICO | 3 | ▲ 1 |
| AUSTRALIA | 2 | |
| CAMEROON | 2 | |
| COLOMBIA | 2 | |
| CONGO | 2 | ▲ 1 |
| KAZAKHSTAN | 2 | |
| ARMENIA | 1 | ▼ 1 |
| BULGARIA | 1 | |
| DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | 1 | ▼ 1 |
| GHANA | 1 | |
| JAMAICA | 1 | |
| MALAWI | 1 | |
| PANAMA | 1 | |
| PERU | 1 | |
| SPAIN | 1 | |
| UGANDA | 1 | ▲ 1 |
| VENEZUELA | 1 | |

***Out (from last month):*** *Costa Rica (Bryan Vazquez), Denmark (Mikkel Kessler)*
***In (from last month):*** *None*

**** Includes two ratings for Floyd Mayweather Jr. (junior middleweight and welterweight).***




# U.K. VS. JAPAN

The Japanese have always been well represented in THE RING Ratings, generally trailing the U.S., Mexico and the U.K. on the list of nations with the most rated fighters. Well, Japan has reached a milestone this month: It caught the U.K. Here's how they compare division by division.

| DIVISION | U.K. | JAPAN |
|---|---|---|
| HEAVYWEIGHTS | 1 | 0 |
| CRUISERWEIGHTS | 1 | 0 |
| LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS | 0 | 0 |
| SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS | 3 | 0 |
| MIDDLEWEIGHTS | 2 | 0 |
| JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS | 0 | 0 |
| WELTERWEIGHTS | 2 | 0 |
| JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS | 0 | 0 |
| LIGHTWEIGHTS | 1 | 0 |
| JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS | 0 | 2 |
| FEATHERWEIGHTS | 1 | 0 |
| JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS | 2 | 0 |
| BANTAMWEIGHTS | 1 | 4 |
| JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT | 0 | 1 |
| FLYWEIGHTS | 0 | 2 |
| JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS | 0 | 3 |
| STRAWWEIGHTS | 0 | 2 |
| TOTAL | 14 | 14 |

# WELL REPRESENTED

The United States has pulled away from Mexico in the number of fighters rated by THE RING, 39 to 29. However, Mexico is represented in more of the 17 weight divisions. These countries have at least one fighter in the most divisions.

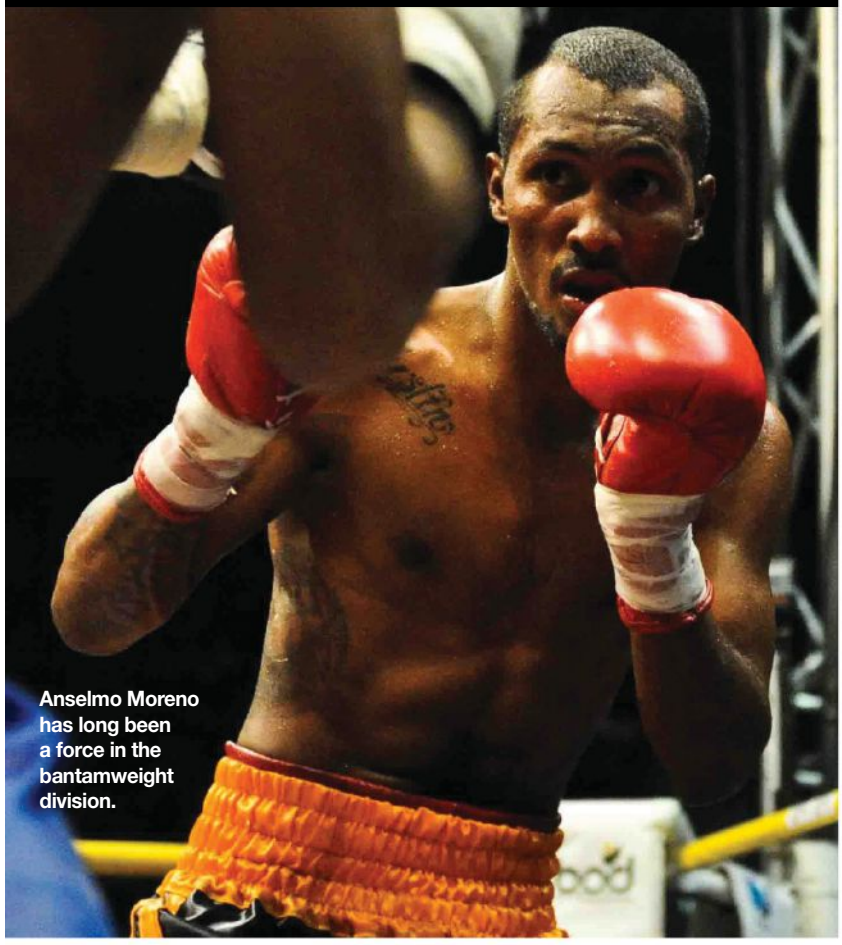
**13** MEXICO
**12** UNITED STATES
**9** UNITED KINGDOM
**8** PHILIPPINES
**7** SOUTH AFRICA
**6** JAPAN
**6** RUSSIA
**5** ARGENTINA
**5** CUBA
**4** UKRAINE
**3** CANADA
**3** GERMANY
**3** NICARAGUA
**3** POLAND
**3** PUERTO RICO
**3** THAILAND

ALVAREZ: NAOKI FUKUDA; MAYWEATHER: ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

FOCUS ON . . .

# BANTAMWEIGHTS

A breakdown of THE RING Top 10 in one division each month, plus a list of fighters on the cusp of breaking through. This month: the 118-pounders.



Anselmo Moreno has long been a force in the bantamweight division.

**MOST WEEKS RATED:** ANSELMO MORENO **327**

**FEWEST WEEKS RATED:** RYOSUKE IWASA **17**

**OLDEST:** MALCOLM TUNACAO **36**

**YOUNGEST:** JULIO CEJA **21**

**MOST FIGHTS:** TUNACAO **40**

**FEWEST FIGHTS:** IWASA **18**

**HIGHEST WINNING PERCENTAGE:** TOMOKI KAMEDA **100 PERCENT**

**LOWEST WINNING PERCENTAGE:** TUNACAO **85 PERCENT**

**MOST KOS:** HUGO RUIZ **30**

**FEWEST KOS:** IWASA **10**

**LONGEST CURRENT WINNING STREAK:** TOMOKI KAMEDA **30 FIGHTS**

**ON THE POUND-FOR-POUND LIST:** NONE

**TITLEHOLDERS IN THE TOP 10:** TOMOKI KAMEDA **(WBO)**, MORENO **(WBA)**, SHINSUKE YAMANAKA **(WBC)**

**ON THE CUSP (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER):** RANDY CABALLERO, STUART HALL, LIBORIO SOLIS, SURIYAN SOR RUNGVISAI, TEPPARITH KOKIETGYM

## OLD SCHOOL 8

THE RING staff members' current champions in the original eight weight classes.

Floyd Mayweather Jr.

**MICHAEL ROSENTHAL** RING MAGAZINE EDITOR

**HEAVYWEIGHT:** WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
**LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT:** ANDRE WARD
**MIDDLEWEIGHT:** GENNADY GOLOVKIN
**WELTERWEIGHT:** FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
**LIGHTWEIGHT:** MIKEY GARCIA
**FEATHERWEIGHT:** GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
**BANTAMWEIGHT:** ANSELMO MORENO
**FLYWEIGHT:** ROMAN GONZALEZ

**DOUG FISCHER** RINGTV.COM EDITOR

**HEAVYWEIGHT:** WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
**LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT:** ANDRE WARD
**MIDDLEWEIGHT:** GENNADY GOLOVKIN
**WELTERWEIGHT:** FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
**LIGHTWEIGHT:** MIGUEL VAZQUEZ
**FEATHERWEIGHT:** GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
**BANTAMWEIGHT:** SHINSUKE YAMANAKA
**FLYWEIGHT:** ROMAN GONZALEZ

**LEM SATTERFIELD** RINGTV.COM STAFF WRITER

**HEAVYWEIGHT:** WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
**LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT:** ANDRE WARD
**MIDDLEWEIGHT:** GENNADY GOLOVKIN
**WELTERWEIGHT:** FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
**LIGHTWEIGHT:** MIKEY GARCIA
**FEATHERWEIGHT:** GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
**BANTAMWEIGHT:** ANSELMO MORENO
**FLYWEIGHT:** ROMAN GONZALEZ

***Note:*** *This is how the weights break down: Heavyweight includes cruiserweight, light heavyweight includes super middleweight, all divisions middleweight through flyweight include the "junior" versions, and flyweight also includes strawweight.*

MORENO: MIGUEL GUTIERRY; MAYWEATHER: MIKE STOBE/GETTY IMAGES

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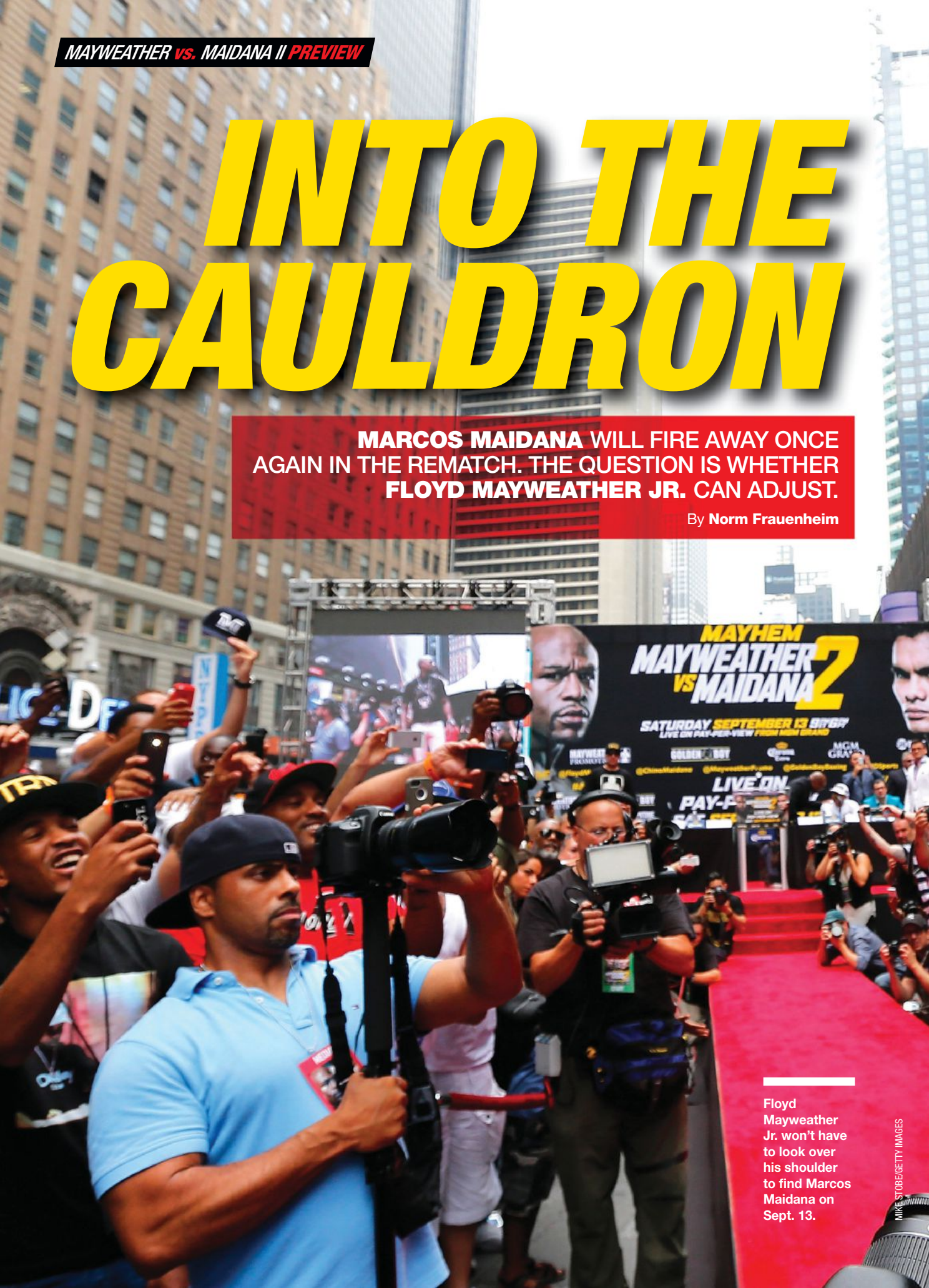
# INTO THE CAULDRON

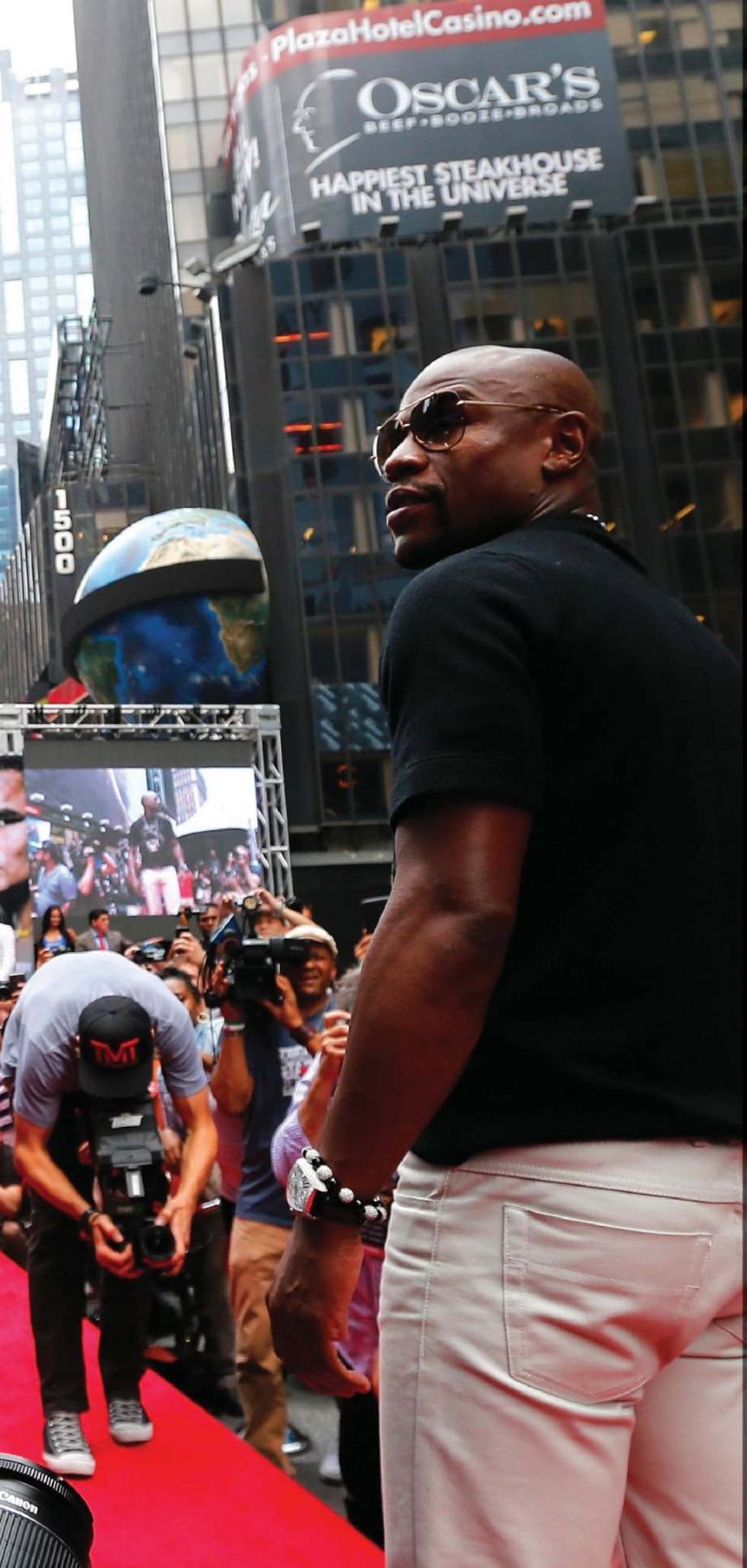
**MARCOS MAIDANA** WILL FIRE AWAY ONCE AGAIN IN THE REMATCH. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.** CAN ADJUST.

By **Norm Frauenheim**




Floyd Mayweather Jr. won't have to look over his shoulder to find Marcos Maidana on Sept. 13.

MIKE STOBE/GETTY IMAGES




If Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s rich career has entered the legacy-building stage, it's hard to know how we will one day judge his first fight with Marcos Maidana. It fell short of expectations: his and everybody else's. It was supposed to be just another testament to his singular skill. Even he talked about delivering his 'A' game. But on any scale, it was B-minus work. Nobody described it as brilliant, not even him. Mostly, he endured, claiming a victory that entered the record book as a majority decision. A 5-4 vote from the U.S. Supreme Court is more convincing.

Without unanimity, there's only more debate, especially in the contentious court of public opinion.

Despite a huge payday and another victory in Mayweather's march to remain unbeaten, nothing was settled in the fight. It didn't satisfy anybody, other than perhaps some of the Mayweather haters who want to see him lose. And Maidana got as close to pulling off that feat as anyone has since Jose Luis Castillo.

For the moment, forget about statistics that said Mayweather was more accurate, hence more effective. More on those stats later. His critics think they know what they saw. One of the three judges, Michael Pernick, scored it a 114-114-draw, which says he saw some of the same things. Mayweather, a 117-111 and 116-112 winner on the other two cards, appeared off-balance in the first couple of rounds. He was clearly shaken by a cut above his right eye in the fourth. It was a rare sight, a Mayweather few have ever seen. For the anti-Mayweather crowd, those early moments represented a chance to finally get a payoff on their pay-per-view dollars.

"I wanted to give the fans what they wanted to see, so I stood and fought him," Mayweather said, almost cryptically, during a post-

fight news conference at Las Vegas' MGM Grand.

But why? Why in the world did the globe's best boxer, a control freak, permit an opponent to do the dictating? At the very least, it was out of character. Maybe it represents the early signs of decline, an inevitability that might be the only barrier in his evident quest of the unbeaten standard. Or maybe it was just a bad night.

Maybe, maybe, maybe.

A rematch is the only way to remove that uncertainty. Maybe.

In the heated aftermath of the May 3 bout, Mayweather seemed to know, perhaps instinctively, that a do-over was inevitable. He promised Maidana a second chance. A couple of months later, Mayweather repeated that promise during an interview on the red carpet before a BET Awards dinner. Then, on July 10, he made it official with an announcement that he and Maidana would do it all over again on Sept. 13 in the same venue as before. He never wavered. There were no polls asking fans to pick between one or the other, as there had been last spring in his choice of Maidana over Amir Khan. Instead, it looks as if Mayweather had his mind set on cleaning up some unfinished business.

The money matters, of course. A rematch is a return trip to the pay window for Mayweather, who could collect another guarantee of $30-plus million against an opponent he has already encountered and perhaps figured out. On the risk-to-reward ratio, that could be a pretty sweet deal. And it could get sweeter if the first fight sells the second. Ironically, Mayweather-Maidana I had been called a tough sell and reports of PPV sales of fewer than 1 million say that it was. But potential answers to questions left in the original might be the lure that attracts a bigger audience to the sequel.

Mostly, however, there's a burden of proof that he can't address against Danny Garcia or Shawn Porter or Keith Thurman. Only an immediate rematch with Maidana gives him that opportunity.

**IT LOOKS AS IF MAYWEATHER HAD HIS MIND SET ON CLEANING UP SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**

In the first fight, Mayweather found himself on his heels immediately because of a brawling, inexhaustible style devoid of classic technique yet effective for the chaos it created. Mayweather didn't get many chances to roll his shoulder in a defensive tactic that has become his

MIKE STOBE/GETTY IMAGES

**At least one Maidana fan believes Mayweather will finally meet his match the second time around.**

signature. This time, that shoulder was just another target. So was any other Mayweather appendage. Mayweather complained that referee Tony Weeks let Maidana get away with a lot of cheap stuff. He joked that he wants more kids but might not be able to have them because of the low blows he sustained.

Simply put, Maidana launched a carpet-bomb attack and sustained it throughout much of the fight. After it was over, CompuBox reported that Maidana landed more punches, 221, than any Mayweather opponent ever has in the 38 fights of his at which CompuBox compiled statistics. Maidana threw 858 punches. He landed at a rate of 25.8 percent, less than half of Mayweather's batting average, 53 percent (230 of 429).

Mayweather's superior accuracy, especially in the later rounds, explains his victory. But boxing isn't baseball. The numbers are important, yet not always decisive, and hard to track. It was hard to tell what caused the cut. Keeping count of Maidana's punches within a single round was a little bit like trying to count the number of times a helicopter's propeller completes a full revolution within a three-minute span.

Maidana was throwing at a tornado-like rate that initially seemed to confuse Mayweather. It also might have forced him to abandon what appeared to be an early pursuit of a stoppage. In pre-fight interviews, Mayweather strongly suggested that a knockout of Maidana was his goal. But he appeared to give it up after getting cut in the fourth from what was reported to be a head-butt amid a cyclone of overhand rights. But, again, it was hard to tell exactly what in the Maidana maelstrom caused that cut.

Perhaps, there was a method within Maidana's full-tilt assault from air, land, sea and a few other uncharted angles. Chaos was his best chance then, perhaps his only chance now.

Now, it's up to Mayweather to resurrect the clever strategist who, for the most part, was missing in early May. That's why there has to be a rematch. Without one, his design on an enduring legacy might be left with an unresolved flaw not seen in the record book yet always there for that court of public opinion.

Here are the prospects of each fighter going into the rematch.

## MAIDANA

One theory is that there's not much more the Argentine can do. Maidana's trainer, Robert Garcia, disagrees. It was Garcia who

predicted that Mayweather would have difficulty against Maidana's unconventional style, which is more slugfest than sweet science.

It upset Adrien Broner in December. In May, Maidana threw the unconventional and a lot more at Mayweather, who at times scrambled around like a guy desperately searching for a storm shelter.

"We'll be ready," said Garcia, who was back at work with Maidana at his gym in Oxnard, California, four days before the July 10 announcement. "I think we'll be better than we were the first time."

Above all, Garcia said, Maidana emerged from the first fight knowing he could be competitive with Mayweather. Few thought he had a chance. At the opening bell, he was an 8-to-1 underdog. That confidence is a baseline from which Maidana can add a few new wrinkles and perhaps refine some elements, although that might be hard to do. It's hard to refine helter-skelter.

Still, Garcia said he would like Maidana to be lighter than he was in May. At the formal weigh-in, he was 146.5 pounds. Overnight, he gained 18.5 pounds. At the opening bell, he was at 165. The idea is to make him just a little bit quicker, which might help him get to spots faster in an apparent attempt to improve his punching accuracy.

One change has already been forced on Maidana. Conditioning coach Alex Ariza won't be in his corner the second time around. There's some mystery as to why Ariza is gone. Garcia abruptly ended his relationship with him in May for reasons that weren't completely clear.

"He's the best at what he does, but we can do it without him," Garcia said when asked about the split.

**Maidana and Mayweather both believed they did enough to win their first fight. They'll have a second chance to make it more conclusive.**

Mayweather-Castillo I

## RECORD NIGHT

**Marcos Maidana had unprecedented success against Floyd Mayweather Jr. in their first fight, at least in one respect: He landed more punches (221) than anyone else in the 38 Mayweather fights for which CompuBox has compiled statistics. The average number of punches landed by all welterweights over 12 rounds is 223.2. "It looks like Floyd finally became average against Maidana," said Lee Groves, who works for CompuBox and THE RING. The lists below indicate the most punches landed against Mayweather and the top connect percentages against him. The average connect rate for 147-pounders is 32 percent.**

### MOST PUNCHES LANDED

**1.** Marcos Maidana – 221
**2.** Jose Luis Castillo I – 203
**3.** Jesus Chavez – 182
**4.** Carlos Hernandez – 172
**5.** Gregorio "Goyo" Vargas – 159
**6.** Carlos Rios – 155
**7.** DeMarcus Corley – 150
**8.** Jose Luis Castillo II – 137
**9.** Oscar De La Hoya – 122
**10.** Canelo Alvarez – 117

### HIGHEST CONNECT PERCENTAGE

**1.** Jose Luis Castillo I – 40.1
**2.** Carlos Rios – 36.6
**3.** Hector Arroyo – 34.6
**4.** Diego Corrales – 33.2
**5.** Reggie Sanders – 33.1
**6.** Genaro Hernandez – 32.8
**7.** Goyo Vargas – 31.5
**8.** Carlos Gerena – 27.6
**9.** Marcos Maidana – 25.8
**10.** Carlos Hernandez – 25.4

*Statistics courtesy of CompuBox*

Before the first fight, Ariza predicted that Maidana would throw about 1,200 punches, or 100 punches a round. Against Broner, he threw a total of 964, according to CompuBox. Against Mayweather, Maidana's total output actually declined by 106 punches.

Ariza's history is controversial. In the Broner fight, which took place in San Antonio, there's video of him holding a napkin or cloth to Maidana's face before the final round. The video, widely seen on the internet, generated suspicions that Ariza was applying a stimulant. No, he said, he was simply wiping Maidana's nose. There were no post-fight reports from the Texas commission about stimulants or other banned performance enhancers. The allegations ended there.

Nevertheless, Maidana appeared to be comfortable with Ariza, Manny Pacquiao's former conditioning coach. More important, he was successful with him. Just his absence could be a challenging adjustment, although Maidana displayed resilience against Mayweather.

On the night before the fight, Mayweather and his promotional staff huffed and puffed about canceling the first fight. They objected to an Everlast brand of MX gloves, custom-made for Maidana. The padding consisted mostly of horse hair, which big punchers favor. As a result of the objection, Maidana was forced to wear Everlast's PowerLock, which includes foam padding. Garcia said he has no problem with PowerLock. But the timing made it difficult on Maidana. Garcia said they had to use Vaseline to slide Maidana's hands into the gloves on the night of the fight.

It was a late adjustment. An unnecessary one, Garcia said. But Maidana adjusted to that in what might be a sign he'll have no trouble with further adjustments that are an inevitable part of any rematch.

## MAYWEATHER

Mayweather hinted that he might have fought the wrong fight in his first meeting with Maidana. In the early rounds, he brawled, often on feet that displayed none of the agile movement that had always allowed him to set up precise counters while dancing in and out of harm's way.

He did what the fans wanted, he said.

"I stood there and fought him," Mayweather said.

Don't be surprised if he does what he has always done best in the September remake. Ever since the difficult majority decision over Maidana, Mayweather has proceeded as if a rematch was the only option. It is as if he has something to prove, once and for all, to all those fans he says he tried to please.

"I always make the adjustments," Mayweather said. "That's the difference between me and every other fighter."

But can Mayweather make an adjustment at 37 that he made so easily just a few years ago? In the early rounds against Maidana, he was flat-footed. How come? Was he attempting to win by knockout? Or has time's inevitable toll eroded some of his foot speed? His dad and trainer, Floyd Mayweather Sr., was opposed to his son's initial pursuit of the rematch.

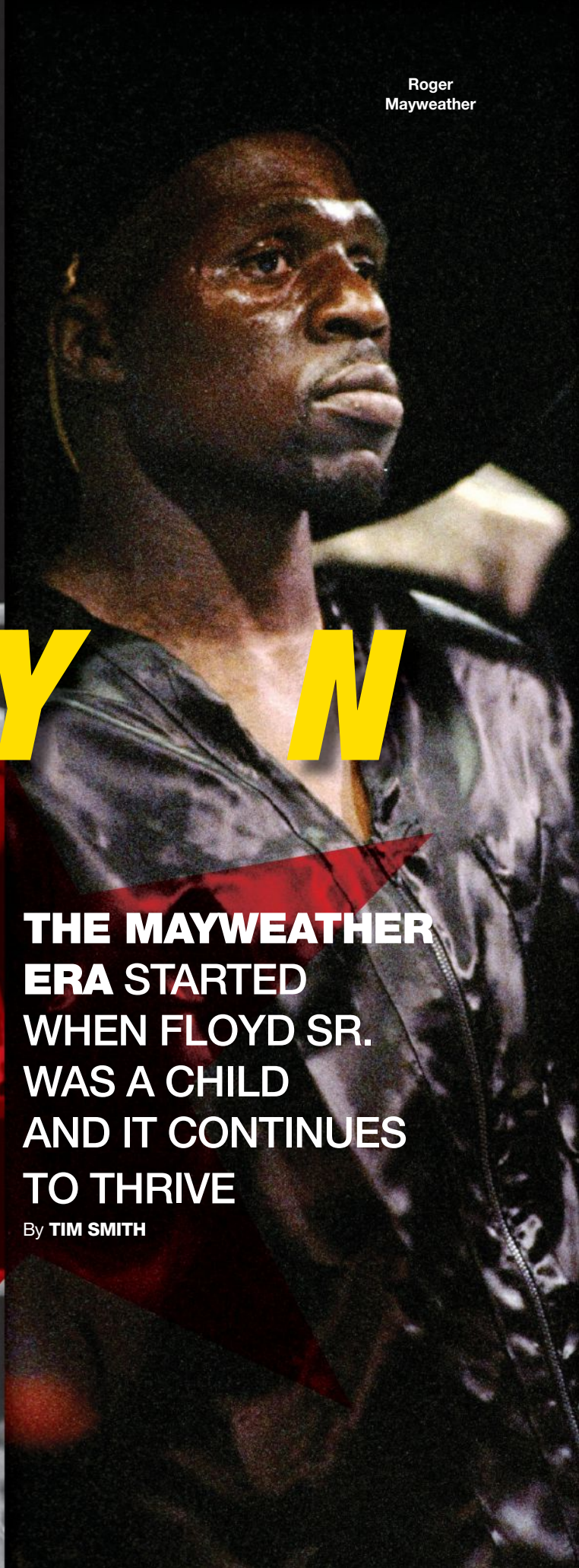
"Floyd told me he wants to do it again," the senior Mayweather told reporters in the immediate aftermath of the first fight. "But I already told him I don't think he should do it. The guy is nothing but an MMA fighter. He's twisting your arm, pushing you out of the ring, hitting you behind the head, hitting you below the belt, butting you in the head. That's not boxing."

Maybe not.

But the MMA-like brawler has also been a charging bull that a younger Mayweather could easily elude and thoroughly beat. Can he still? The answer to that question might decide this rematch.

ED MULHOLLAND/GOLDEN BOY VIA GETTY IMAGES; CASTILLO: JED JACOBSOHN/GETTY IMAGES

Floyd Mayweather Sr.



Roger Mayweather

# DYN

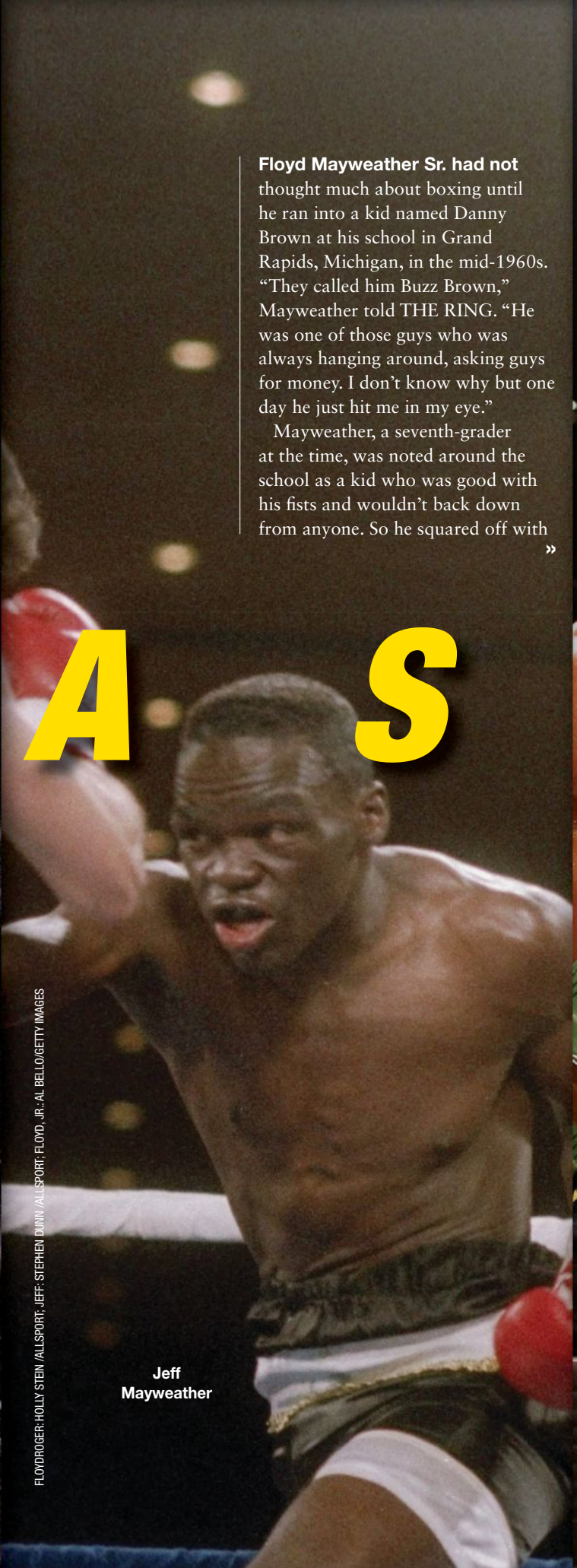
## THE MAYWEATHER ERA STARTED WHEN FLOYD SR. WAS A CHILD AND IT CONTINUES TO THRIVE

By **TIM SMITH**

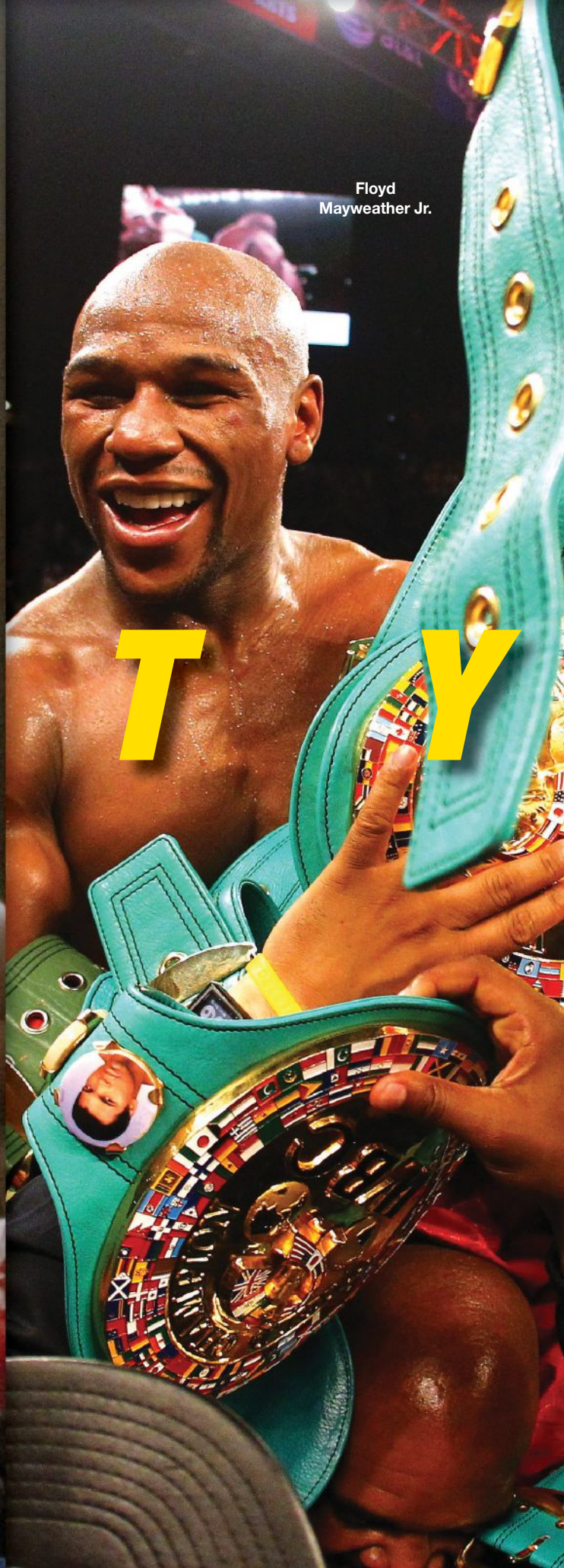
**Floyd Mayweather Sr. had not** thought much about boxing until he ran into a kid named Danny Brown at his school in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in the mid-1960s. "They called him Buzz Brown," Mayweather told THE RING. "He was one of those guys who was always hanging around, asking guys for money. I don't know why but one day he just hit me in my eye."

Mayweather, a seventh-grader at the time, was noted around the school as a kid who was good with his fists and wouldn't back down from anyone. So he squared off with »

# A S T Y



Jeff Mayweather



Floyd Mayweather Jr.

FLOYDROGER: HOLLY STEIN /ALLSPORT; JEFF: STEPHEN DUNN /ALLSPORT; FLOYD, JR.: AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

Buzz Brown in the schoolyard. As the fight ensued, a teacher arrived on the scene and gave the boys two choices: They could be expelled for fighting or they could go to the neighborhood gym, lace on the boxing gloves and settle it there in the ring. They chose the gym.

"They were calling me Sugar Ray (Robinson) that day because I was victorious," Mayweather said. "I was touching him up pretty good. Danny Brown was the guy who taught me to fight in gloves."

Little did he know at the time that a boxing dynasty was born that day, the Mayweather Dynasty, which eventually saw Roger and Jeff Mayweather follow their older brother into the sport as both fighters and trainers. And, of course, they were followed by Floyd Jr., who would become the best fighter in the world.

"Boxing is stamped by the Mayweather name," said Jeff Mayweather.

Floyd Sr. learned his craft by becoming a regular at the Tawsi Gym in Grand Rapids, absorbing all the lessons he could. He put them into practice in city and state competitions. Soon he was winning tournament after tournament and attracting the attention of the older boxers at the gym.

"I used to box guys down there and they always used to say how good Floyd's right hand and his hook was, older guys who had gone to the Golden Gloves," he said.

Floyd Sr. turned pro in 1974, by which time he had become a pied piper to his brothers, who wandered into the gym and never left. They had varying degrees of success as professionals. Floyd Sr. never won a world title and broke his hand on the way to losing a decision to Sugar Ray Leonard in his biggest fight. Roger had great success on the professional level, winning titles in two weight divisions. Jeff was a contender.

Their greatest contributions in boxing might have come as trainers, as Floyd Sr. and Roger have guided Floyd Jr. and Jeff has trained former WBO heavyweight titleholder Sultan Ibragimov, among others.

**Floyd Mayweather Sr. celebrated a victory over Jose Baret in 1983 but then went 1-3 in his final four fights and retired.**

In either role – as fighters or trainers – the Mayweather family boxing story has been played out all over the world.

"Roger had a great career. Floyd, Sr. and I had decent careers," Jeff said. "We made history as trainers. Two questions that will always come up with us: Name three brothers who all fought Olympic gold medalists (Floyd Sr.: Leonard, Roger: Pernell Whitaker, Jeff: Oscar De La Hoya) and name three brothers who trained world champions at the same time. We've done something that will never be surpassed."

They've also perfected a defensive posture – the Mayweather shoulder roll – that has been imitated by other boxers but rarely duplicated with the success of a Mayweather.

"I can't take the credit for that," Floyd Sr. said. "That came from a masterful man who taught me that, man named Dale Williams from Detroit. He was a great trainer. That man taught me all kinds of tricks – hook off the jab, feint to the body and then come up top. That's where Floyd (Jr.) got the shoulder roll from. I'm the one who taught him all the stuff."

Floyd Jr. is 37 now. As his career winds down, the obvious question for the Mayweather family is who will continue the dynasty. Not even the Mayweathers know the answer. It depends on what path members of the next generation decide to take.

Jeff, the youngest of the three brothers, was a reluctant ring warrior. He said he had no real interest in becoming a boxer.

"I never cared about boxing," he said. "I followed my brother Roger so much that he said 'If you're going to be coming to the gym every day, you need to learn to fight.' I loved basketball. I was only 5-8 but I thought I was going to go to the NBA and be the next Spud Webb. I never had the type of passion for it like my brothers."

There was never a question as to what Floyd Jr. was going to become. Floyd Sr. groomed his son to be a boxer from the cradle.

"He was raised like he was in a communist country, where you pick a child and say, 'This is what you're going to do for the rest of your life.'" Jeff said. "His dad loved boxing so much that he said 'This is what my son is going to do.'"

INSET: THE RING MAGAZINE; MARK RALSTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Floyd Mayweather Jr. has been trained by his father and his uncle Roger (pictured).

Floyd Jr. was a boxing prodigy but it took more than genetics to make him the superstar he is today. He craved the attention of his father, who lavished it on him when he was training him. He adored adulation, which he received by succeeding in the ring. And he loved being rewarded, which came in the forms of trophies and championships as an amateur and money once he turned pro.

DNA, a demanding father and a kid with an unrelenting work ethic is a potent cocktail for success.

"Take any one of those things out of the equation and he doesn't make it," said David Mayo, a Grand Rapids reporter who has covered the Mayweather family since Floyd Jr.'s amateur years.

Mayo said you didn't even need a trained eye to see that Floyd Jr. was going to be the best Mayweather to ever strap on a pair of gloves. Mayo covered a National Golden Gloves tournament in Arkansas when Floyd Jr. was 16. He had just moved up from the juniors and had never fought in the open class. It didn't matter: He won the championship.

"He wiped out five grown men. Right then I thought Olympic gold medals and several world championships were in his future," Mayo said. "But I never thought he'd become one of the biggest money earners in the sport and reach the level that he has now."

There were other cousins around at the same time as Floyd Jr., but Floyd Sr., Roger and Jeff weren't interested in grooming them to be future world champions. Big Floyd threw all of his energies into training his son.

"I would never train nobody else when I was training him. He was my son," Floyd Sr. said.

Jeff Mayweather said their late brother, Theartha, had a son named Theartha Jr. who boxed briefly. But he was not trained by any of the other brothers.

"He was gifted. He left the amateurs undefeated," Jeff

## THE BOXING MAYWEATHERS

### FLOYD MAYWEATHER SR.

**Pro record:** 28-6-1, 17 KOs
**Active:** 1974-90
**Career highlights:** Was stopped by Ray Leonard in 10 rounds in 1978 but won praise from Leonard for his ability. Was THE RING's No. 6 welterweight at the time. ★ Lost two decisions to Marlon Starling. ★ Never fought for a world title. ★ Spent five years in prison for drug trafficking. ★ Has trained many top fighters, including his son (Floyd Mayweather Jr.), Oscar De La Hoya, Chad Dawson and Ricky Hatton.

### ROGER MAYWEATHER

**Pro record:** 59-13, 35 KOs
**Active:** 1981-99
**Career highlights:** Won world titles in two divisions. Stopped Samuel Serrano in eight rounds to win the WBA junior lightweight belt in 1983 and KO'd Rene Arredondo in six to win the WBC junior welterweight title in 1987. Had six total successful defenses. ★ Was 8-5 in world title fights. ★ Was stopped six times, including twice against Julio Cesar Chavez. ★ Had two stints as Floyd Jr.'s trainer.

### JEFF MAYWEATHER

**Pro record:** 32-10-5, 10 KOs
**Active:** 1988-97
**Career highlights:** Lost to Oscar De La Hoya, Joey Gamache and James Leija in his biggest fights. ★ Never fought for a major world title. Held the fringe IBO junior lightweight title in 1994-95. ★ Only two of his 10 losses were by knockout. ★ Trained Sultan Ibragimov when the Russian outpointed Shannon Briggs to win the WBO heavyweight title in 2007.

### FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.

**Pro record:** 46-0, 26 KOs
**Active:** 1996-present
**Career highlights:** Is recognized as the best fighter in the world pound-for-pound. ★ Has won 15 world titles (including four RING championships) in five weight divisions. Currently holds THE RING junior middleweight and welterweight titles. ★ Is 23-0 in world title fights. ★ Hasn't lost a fight since a controversial decision in the semifinals of the 1996 Olympics. ★ Turned 37 on Feb. 24.

### JUSTIN MAYWEATHER JONES

**Pro record:** 1-0, 1 KO
**Active:** 2013
**Career highlights:** Stopped novice Rick Ogden in two rounds in July of last year, Jones' only pro fight. ★ Jones, 27, is the son of Floyd Mayweather Sr. from a relationship outside his marriage to Floyd Jr.'s mother. Floyd Sr. trains him.

HOLLY STEIN/ALLSPORT

Roger Mayweather was an excellent fighter, winning three major world titles (including THE RING's).

Mayweather said. "But he was a street kid. He smoked and drank and liked to party. It took his mind off boxing and he never pursued it."

Floyd Sr. is training another "Mayweather" now: Justin Mayweather Jones, a 27-year-old who is his son from a relationship outside of his marriage to Floyd Jr.'s mother. Jones knocked out his only pro opponent so far but, DNA notwithstanding, it doesn't seem likely he'll extend the dynasty. By the time he was 27 years old, Floyd Jr. was 32-0 and had won world titles in two different weight classes.

Floyd Jr. has four children, two sons and two daughters, and none of them appear to be heading for ring careers, according to Uncle Jeff.

"Floyd's kids aren't going to box. They're too rich. They don't have to. One of his sons wants to play football and one wants to play basketball," he said.

That will leave it to someone else. The brightest prospect at this point is Roger's son, Lehkei, an 8-year-old prodigy who reminds some of his famous cousin and has world-class trainers in his family. Jeff said Lehkei used to run around the house when he was 2 years old, throwing punches at the couch and the stove. Mayo recalls seeing him in the gym at around the same time.

"He threw combinations with a purpose," Mayo said. "So you may not have heard of the last great Mayweather."

Said Jeff: "It would be ideal for him to be the next one. But he's also a kid who likes to do other things."

More than likely the Mayweather dynasty will come to a close when Floyd Jr. hangs up the gloves.

"I think [a fighter like] Floyd only comes around every 100 years. They don't come every day," Floyd Sr. said. "I thought I was the s--t back in the day. He's accomplished more things than I did, but everything he's doing he did it through me anyway."

# THE BEST OF MODERN TIMES?

## POUND-FOR-POUND POLL

**THE RING ASKED 20 EXPERTS TO DETERMINE THE TOP 20 FIGHTERS SINCE WORLD WAR II. HERE ARE THE RESULTS.**

By **Michael Rosenthal**

**Floyd Mayweather Jr. is one** of the best fighters of the past few decades, perhaps THE best. Even his worst detractors have to admit he is supremely gifted and accomplished.

But both Mayweather and his supporters have sometimes gone a step further, suggesting that he is the greatest of all time. Of course, there is no way to prove or disprove that assertion; it's a matter of opinion. And everybody has one.

With that in mind, THE RING decided to ask some of the most knowledgeable boxing historians and writers to give us their opinions in the form of a poll. Specifically, we asked 20 of them to rank their Top 20 modern fighters pound for pound. We used the International Boxing Hall of Fame's criterion for "modern": last bout no earlier

Floyd Mayweather Jr. did well in THE RING's poll to determine the best fighters of the modern era, just not as well as he and his supporters might've expected.

HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

than 1943.

Of course, that eliminates a lot of great fighters who fought before 1943 but we felt that comparing fighters from the same or adjacent eras is difficult enough. To compare boxers who might've fought a century or more apart is fun but, we believed, less meaningful.

To be clear, we instructed each of the participants to at least consider active fighters or recently retired ones, as we wanted every boxer who has fought since World War II to be in the pool of candidates.

We awarded points based on the voting – 20 points for a first-place vote, 19 for a second-place vote and so on. (See the voting on Pages 62 and 63)

A typical comment after our participants had a chance to do their research, submit their Top 20 lists and in more than one case adjust their lists was: "Man, that was difficult." Indeed, to select 20 from among so many great boxers over the last 70-plus years was a monumental task for the experts, who have experience that exceeds 500 combined years.

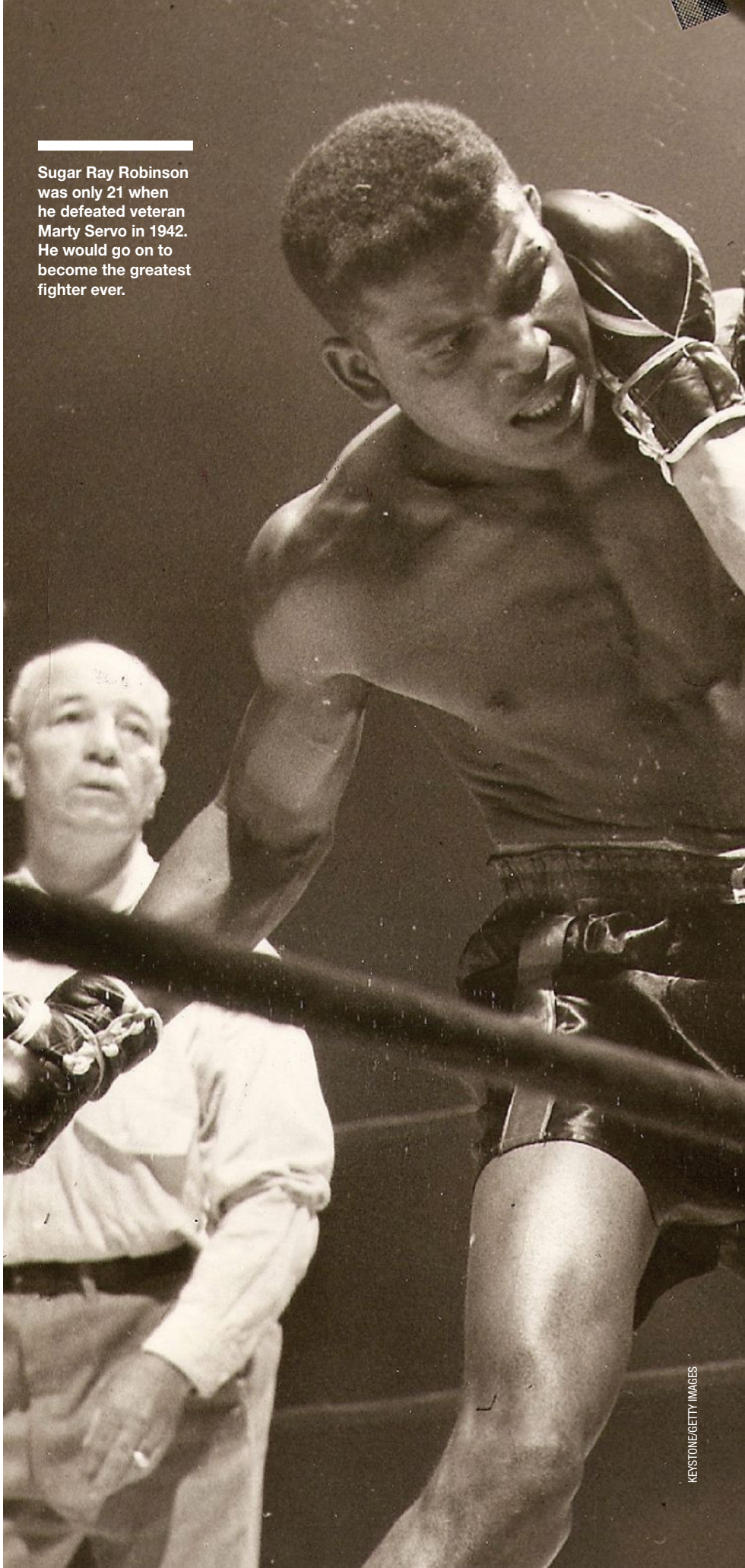
THE RING editors are grateful for their efforts.

Naturally, the lists varied greatly as 49 fighters received at least one vote. Four received first-place votes, six received second-place votes, eight received third-place votes and those numbers generally continued to grow as we went down the list.

The winner of the poll won't surprise you: Ray Robinson, who is generally believed to be the greatest boxer ever. And many of the names you'd expect to be near the top – legends like Henry Armstrong, Muhammad Ali, Joe Louis, Willie Pep, Archie Moore and Ezzard Charles – are there.

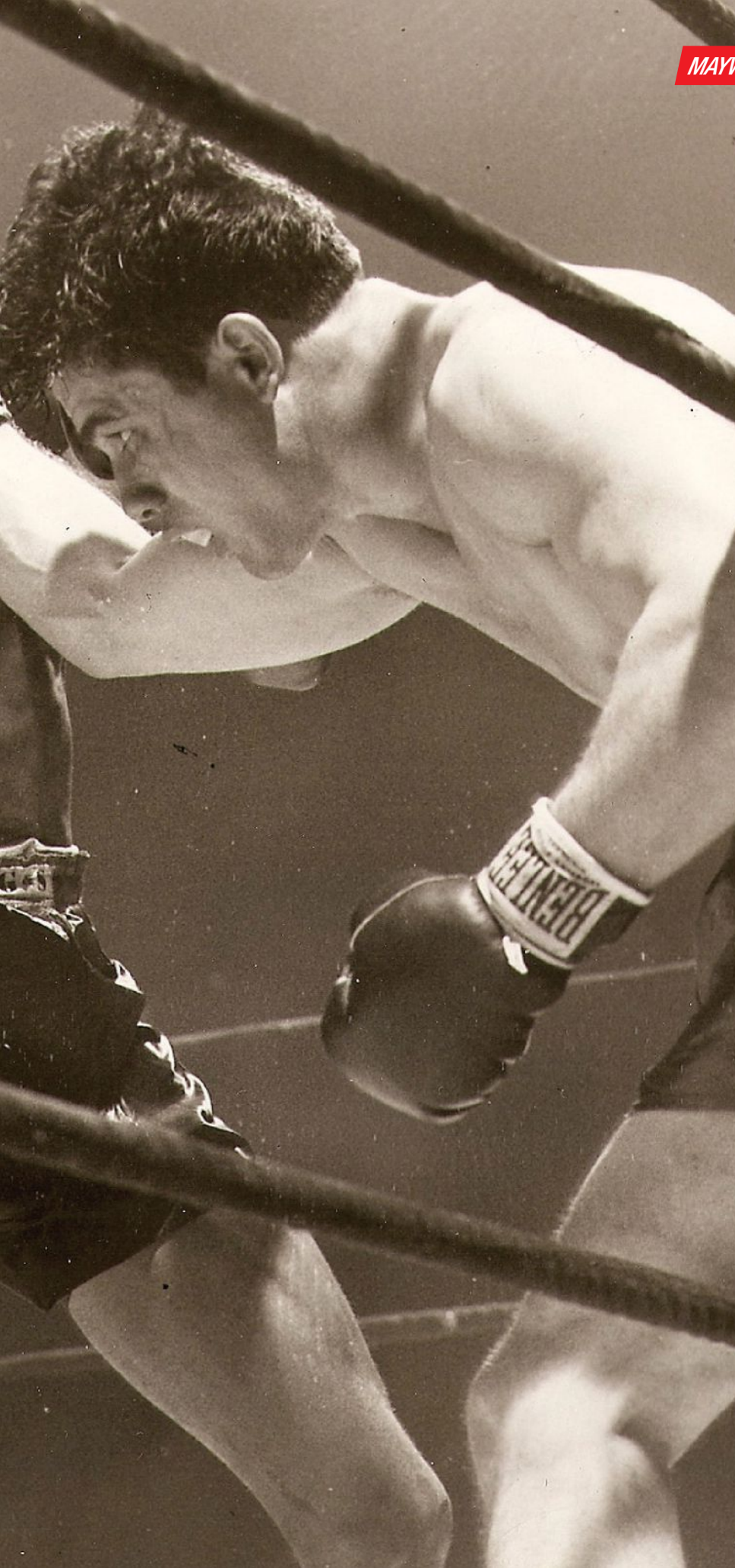
Less predictable was where contemporary fighters would land.

Let's start with the man of the hour, Mayweather. We believe "Money" fared well, finishing at No. 12. That figure won't make him or his passionate minions happy but it's



Sugar Ray Robinson was only 21 when he defeated veteran Marty Servo in 1942. He would go on to become the greatest fighter ever.

KEYSTONE/GETTY IMAGES



pretty damn good when you consider the fighters he was up against.

No expert voted Mayweather higher than No. 9, a position at which he received four votes. He received 14 votes total, more than any other active fighter. Only three active fighters made the Top 20: Mayweather, Roy Jones Jr. (No. 17) and Bernard Hopkins (No. 19). Manny Pacquiao (No. 27) was the only other active fighter to receive votes.

A few more interesting facts:

• Only three fighters appeared on all 20 lists – Robinson, Ali and Roberto Duran.

• Robinson received 17 of the 20 first-place votes. Armstrong, Ali and Pep each received one. Robinson also received two second-place votes and one third-place vote.

• Others who received a large number of votes in a specific spot: Armstrong (10 second-place votes), Ali (five second-place votes) and Duran (six fourth-place votes). Louis and Ray Leonard each received four third-place votes.

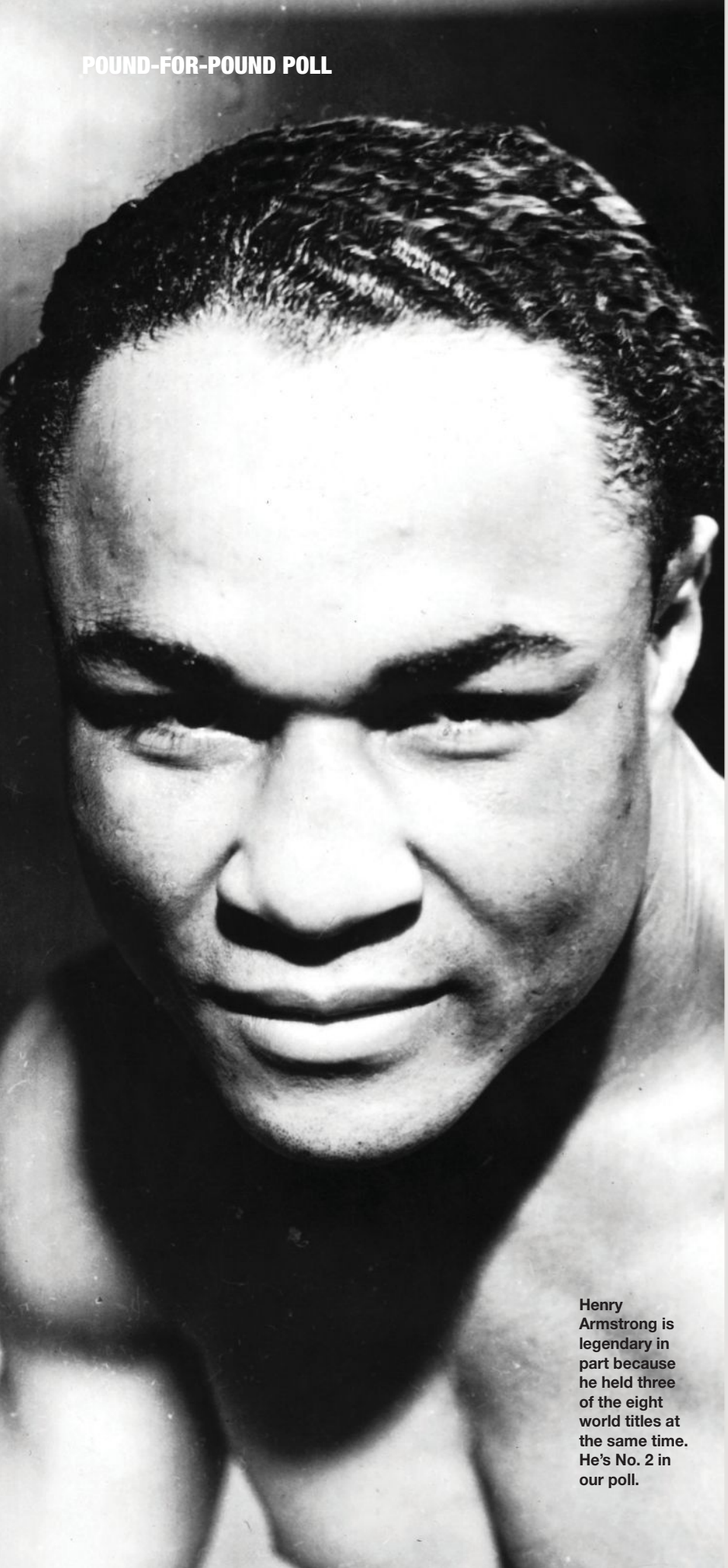
• Fighters from 12 countries received votes.

• Seven fighters received a single vote – Sammy Angott, Jimmy Bivins, Miguel Canto, Bob Foster, Thomas Hearns, Lennox Lewis and Michael Spinks. That means 42 received at least two votes.

• Twelve fighters who held major heavyweight titles – Ali, Ezzard Charles, George Foreman, Joe Frazier, Larry Holmes, Evander Holyfield, Jones, Lewis, Louis, Rocky Marciano, Michael Spinks and Mike Tyson – received votes.

For the record, THE RING editors don't expect this to be the last word on anything. Again, there is no right and wrong here. We simply wanted to see how the best fighters stacked up in the eyes of experts.

In fact, this should just be the beginning of a conversation. Let us know what you think by sending an email to comeoutwriting@sepublications.com. »



Henry Armstrong is legendary in part because he held three of the eight world titles at the same time. He's No. 2 in our poll.

# RING TOP 20 POLL

**THE RING asked 20 experts to take part in a poll to determine the Top 20 modern fighters pound for pound. We used the International Boxing Hall of Fame's criterion for a modern fighter: Last fight no earlier than 1943. Points are awarded as follows: 20 for a first-place vote, 19 for a second-place vote, etc. First-place votes are in parentheses.**

1. Ray Robinson **396 (17)**
2. Henry Armstrong **339 (1)**
3. Muhammad Ali **324 (1)**
4. Roberto Duran **296**
5. Joe Louis **293**
6. Ray Leonard **258**
7. Willie Pep **246 (1)**
8. Archie Moore **189**
9. Julio Cesar Chavez **171**
10. Ezzard Charles **164**
11. Pernell Whitaker **132**
12. Floyd Mayweather Jr. **118**
13. Marvin Hagler **117**
14. Carlos Monzon **98**
15. Eder Jofre **86**
16. Sandy Saddler **82**
17. Roy Jones Jr. **80**
18. Rocky Marciano **77**
19. Bernard Hopkins **66**
20. Ike Williams **55**

**Also receiving votes (in order of points):** Charley Burley 54, Evander Holyfield 42, George Foreman 41, Billy Conn 39, Larry Holmes 36, Manny Pacquiao 36, Kid Gavilan 28, Salvador Sanchez 28, Emile Griffith 27, Jose Napoles 27, Holman Williams 27, Mike Tyson 26, Joe Frazier 22, Alexis Arguello 20, Marcel Cerdan 20, Carlos Ortiz 20, Ricardo Lopez 19, Jake LaMotta 17, Ruben Olivares 17, Pascual Perez 12, Marco Antonio Barrera 9, Oscar De La Hoya 9, Michael Spinks 9, Thomas Hearns 7, Miguel Canto 5, Bob Foster 5, Jimmy Bivins 4, Lennox Lewis 4, Sammy Angott 3.

ARMSTRONG: DAVID SAVILL/TOPICAL PRESS AGENCY/GETTY IMAGES; WHITAKER: BOB DAEMMRICH; HAGLER: RICH STEWART; MONZON: KEYSTONE/HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES; ALL OTHERS: THE RING MAGAZINE

#6

#7

#8

#9

#10

#11

#13

#14

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 RAY ROBINSON | 17 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 HENRY ARMSTRONG | 1 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 MUHAMMAD ALI | 1 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| 4 ROBERTO DURAN | | | 2 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 5 JOE LOUIS | | 1 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 RAY LEONARD | | | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 WILLIE PEP | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| 8 ARCHIE MOORE | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | |
| 9 JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 |
| 10 EZZARD CHARLES | | 1 | 2 | 2 | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | |
| 11 PERNELL WHITAKER | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | |
| 12 FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. | | | | | | | | | 4 | 1 | | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | |
| 13 MARVIN HAGLER | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | 2 | 4 | | | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | |
| 14 CARLOS MONZON | | | | | 1 | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 2 |
| 15 EDER JOFRE | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 2 | | 1 | 3 | | | 1 |
| 16 SANDY SADDLER | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | | 1 |
| 17 ROY JONES JR. | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | |
| 18 ROCKY MARCIANO | | | | | | | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| 19 BERNARD HOPKINS | | | | | | 1 | | 2 | | | | | 1 | | 2 | | | | 2 | 1 |
| 20 IKE WILLIAMS | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | |
| 21 CHARLEY BURLEY | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 22 MIKE TYSON | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | 1 | |
| 23 EVANDER HOLYFIELD | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 2 | | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 24 GEORGE FOREMAN | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 25 BILLY CONN | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 2 | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 26 LARRY HOLMES | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | 1 |
| 27 MANNY PACQUIAO | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| 28 KID GAVILAN | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| 29 SALVADOR SANCHEZ | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | 2 |
| 30 EMILE GRIFFITH | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | 2 | 1 | | 2 |
| 31 JOSE NAPOLES | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 2 | |
| 32 HOLMAN WILLIAMS | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| 33 JOE FRAZIER | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| 34 ALEXIS ARGUELLO | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 35 MARCEL CERDAN | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 36 CARLOS ORTIZ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | | | 1 |
| 37 RICARDO LOPEZ | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| 38 JAKE LAMOTTA | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| 39 RUBEN OLIVARES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | |
| 40 PASCUAL PEREZ | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 2 | |
| 41 MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | |
| 42 OSCAR DE LA HOYA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | |
| 43 MICHAEL SPINKS | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 44 THOMAS HEARNS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 45 MIGUEL CANTO | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 46 BOB FOSTER | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 47 JIMMY BIVINS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| 48 LENNOX LEWIS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| 49 SAMMY ANGOTT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | |

# INDIVIDUAL LISTS

**The Top 20 lists of the 20 experts who took part in THE RING poll to determine the best modern fighters.**

## RON BORGES
Boxing writer (THE RING)
1. Henry Armstrong
2. Ray Robinson
3. Joe Louis
4. Roberto Duran
5. Willie Pep
6. Muhammad Ali
7. Julio Cesar Chavez
8. Carlos Monzon
9. Ray Leonard
10. Salvador Sanchez
11. Pernell Whitaker
12. Rocky Marciano
13. Marvin Hagler
14. Archie Moore
15. Ezzard Charles
16. Eder Jofre
17. Sandy Saddler
18. Kid Gavilan
19. Ruben Olivares
20. Larry Holmes

## BERNARD FERNANDEZ
Boxing writer (THE RING)
1. Ray Robinson
2. Joe Louis
3. Roberto Duran
4. Muhammad Ali
5. Henry Armstrong
6. Willie Pep
7. Rocky Marciano
8. Ray Leonard
9. Floyd Mayweather Jr.
10. Archie Moore
11. Julio Cesar Chavez
12. Ezzard Charles
13. Marvin Hagler
14. Larry Holmes
15. Bernard Hopkins
16. Evander Holyfield
17. Pernell Whitaker
18. Emile Griffith
19. Jose Napoles
20. Eder Jofre

## DOUG FISCHER
RingTV.Com Editor
1. Ray Robinson
2. Henry Armstrong
3. Willie Pep
4. Ezzard Charles
5. Muhammad Ali
6. Archie Moore
7. Joe Louis
8. Roberto Duran
9. Billy Conn
10. Ray Leonard
11. Pernell Whitaker
12. Julio Cesar Chavez
13. Ike Williams
14. Emile Griffith
15. Carlos Ortiz
16. Sandy Saddler
17. Jimmy Bivins
18. Sammy Angott
19. Evander Holyfield
20. Bernard Hopkins

## NORM FRAUENHEIM
Boxing writer (THE RING)
1. Ray Robinson
2. Muhammad Ali
3. Ray Leonard
4. Joe Louis
5. Roberto Duran
6. George Foreman
7. Joe Frazier
8. Julio Cesar Chavez
9. Henry Armstrong
10. Archie Moore
11. Roy Jones Jr.
12. Carlos Monzon
13. Marvin Hagler
14. Thomas Hearns
15. Rocky Marciano
16. Floyd Mayweather Jr.
17. Manny Pacquiao
18. Ruben Olivares
19. Evander Holyfield
20. Jake LaMotta

## LEE GROVES
Boxing author ("Tales from the Vault")
1. Willie Pep
2. Henry Armstrong
3. Ray Robinson
4. Roberto Duran
5. Julio Cesar Chavez
6. Joe Louis
7. Muhammad Ali
8. Bernard Hopkins
9. Ezzard Charles
10. Ray Leonard
11. Manny Pacquiao
12. Marvin Hagler
13. Floyd Mayweather Jr.
14. Evander Holyfield
15. Larry Holmes
16. Pernell Whitaker
17. Lennox Lewis
18. Roy Jones Jr.
19. Archie Moore
20. Alexis Arguello

## CRAIG HAMILTON
Boxing historian and memorabilia expert
1. Ray Robinson
2. Muhammad Ali
3. Henry Armstrong
4. Joe Louis
5. Ray Leonard
6. Roberto Duran
7. Marvin Hagler
8. Bernard Hopkins
9. Salvador Sanchez
10. Rocky Marciano
11. Eder Jofre
12. Mike Tyson
13. Pernell Whitaker
14. Emile Griffith
15. Floyd Mayweather Jr.
16. Sandy Saddler
17. Julio Cesar Chavez
18. Archie Moore
19. Ezzard Charles
20. Carlos Monzon

## THOMAS HAUSER
Boxing author ("Reflections: Conversations, Essays, and Other Writings")
1. Ray Robinson
2. Muhammad Ali
3. Ray Leonard
4. Roberto Duran
5. Henry Armstrong
6. Joe Louis
7. Julio Cesar Chavez
8. Carlos Monzon
9. Archie Moore
10. Ezzard Charles
11. Marvin Hagler
12. Pernell Whitaker
13. Roy Jones Jr.
14. Eder Jofre
15. Floyd Mayweather Jr.
16. Manny Pacquiao
17. Willie Pep
18. Sandy Saddler
19. Alexis Arguello
20. Salvador Sanchez

## KEVIN IOLE
Boxing writer (Yahoo! Sports)
1. Ray Robinson
2. Henry Armstrong
3. Willie Pep
4. Muhammad Ali
5. Joe Louis
6. Ray Leonard
7. Archie Moore
8. Roberto Duran
9. Floyd Mayweather Jr.
10. Julio Cesar Chavez
11. Marcel Cerdan
12. George Foreman
13. Rocky Marciano
14. Jose Napoles
15. Ruben Olivares
16. Jake LaMotta
17. Sandy Saddler
18. Larry Holmes
19. Marvin Hagler
20. Emile Griffith

## MATT MCGRAIN
Boxing historian and writer
1. Ray Robinson
2. Henry Armstrong
3. Ezzard Charles
4. Muhammad Ali
5. Joe Louis
6. Roberto Duran
7. Willie Pep
8. Archie Moore
9. Ray Leonard
10. Pernell Whitaker
11. Sandy Saddler
12. Charley Burley
13. Holman Williams
14. Billy Conn
15. Roy Jones
16. Carlos Monzon
17. Eder Jofre
18. Marvin Hagler
19. Julio Cesar Chavez
20. Kid Gavilan

## CLAY MOYLE
Boxing author (prizefightingbooks.com)
1. Ray Robinson
2. Willie Pep
3. Roberto Duran
4. Henry Armstrong
5. Joe Louis
6. Muhammad Ali
7. Ray Leonard
8. Marvin Hagler
9. Floyd Mayweather Jr.
10. Mike Tyson
11. Eder Jofre
12. Larry Holmes
13. Carlos Monzon
14. Pernell Whitaker
15. Sandy Saddler
16. Jose Napoles
17. Rocky Marciano
18. Ezzard Charles
19. Roy Jones Jr.

20. Julio Cesar Chavez

## MARTIN MULCAHEY

Boxing historian and writer

1. Ray Robinson
2. Henry Armstrong
3. Willie Pep
4. Muhammad Ali
5. Roberto Duran
6. Julio Cesar Chavez
7. Joe Louis
8. Ricardo Lopez
9. Ray Leonard
10. Carlos Monzon
11. Marvin Hagler
12. Pernell Whitaker
13. Floyd Mayweather Jr.
14. Eder Jofre
15. Archie Moore
16. Bob Foster
17. Ruben Olivares
18. Salvador Sanchez
19. Pascual Perez
20. Sandy Saddler

## PATRICK MYLER

Boxing author ("Ring of Hate: Joe Louis vs. Max Schmeling")

1. Ray Robinson
2. Muhammad Ali
3. Joe Louis
4. Henry Armstrong
5. Willie Pep
6. Roberto Duran
7. Archie Moore
8. Ray Leonard
9. Julio Cesar Chavez
10. Eder Jofre
11. Rocky Marciano
12. Floyd Mayweather
13. Marvin Hagler
14. Marco Antonio Barrera
15. Oscar De La Hoya
16. George Foreman
17. Roy Jones Jr.
18. Evander Holyfield
19. Mike Tyson
20. Manny Pacquiao

## JACK OBERMAYER

Boxing writer for 50-plus years

1. Ray Robinson
2. Henry Armstrong
3. Ray Leonard
4. Archie Moore
5. Carlos Monzon
6. Roberto Duran
7. Eder Jofre
8. Muhammad Ali
9. Willie Pep
10. Joe Louis
11. Pernell Whitaker
12. Roy Jones Jr.
13. Jose Napoles
14. Floyd Mayweather Jr.
15. Ezzard Charles
16. Ricardo Lopez
17. Marvin Hagler
18. Sandy Saddler
19. Pascual Perez
20. Emile Griffith

## ADAM POLLACK

Author of seven books (including "In the Ring with Jack Johnson, Part I: The Rise")

1. Muhammad Ali
2. Ray Robinson
3. Ray Leonard
4. Roberto Duran
5. Roy Jones Jr.
6. Bernard Hopkins
7. Pernell Whitaker
8. Julio Cesar Chavez
9. Floyd Mayweather Jr.
10. Alexis Arguello
11. Evander Holyfield
12. Michael Spinks
13. Sandy Saddler
14. Kid Gavilan
15. Ike Williams
16. Manny Pacquiao
17. Larry Holmes
18. Marvin Hagler
19. Marco Antonio Barrera
20. Salvador Sanchez

## CLIFF ROLD

Boxing historian and writer

1. Ray Robinson
2. Ezzard Charles
3. Henry Armstrong
4. Roberto Duran
5. Muhammad Ali
6. Archie Moore
7. Ray Leonard
8. Willie Pep
9. Pernell Whitaker
10. Joe Louis
11. Roy Jones Jr.
12. Carlos Monzon
13. Bernard Hopkins
14. Manny Pacquiao
15. Julio Cesar Chavez
16. Miguel Canto
17. Eder Jofre
18. Marvin Hagler
19. Floyd Mayweather Jr.
20. Carlos Ortiz

## MICHAEL ROSENTHAL

Editor of THE RING Magazine

1. Ray Robinson
2. Henry Armstrong
3. Muhammad Ali
4. Willie Pep
5. Joe Louis
6. Ezzard Charles
7. Archie Moore
8. Ray Leonard
9. Carlos Monzon
10. Roberto Duran
11. Billy Conn
12. Eder Jofre
13. Pernell Whitaker
14. Carlos Ortiz
15. Alexis Arguello
16. Julio Cesar Chavez
17. Emile Griffith
18. Roy Jones Jr.
19. Ruben Olivares
20. Evander Holyfield

## MIKE SILVER

Boxing author ("The Arc of Boxing")

1. Ray Robinson
2. Henry Armstrong
3. Joe Louis
4. Ezzard Charles
5. Charley Burley
6. Willie Pep
7. Ike Williams
8. Archie Moore
9. Holman Williams
10. Jake LaMotta
11. Marcel Cerdan
12. Kid Gavilan
13. Pascual Perez
14. Sandy Saddler
15. Carlos Ortiz
16. Roberto Duran
17. Eder Jofre
18. Muhammad Ali
19. Jose Napoles
20. Rocky Marciano

## TIM SMITH

Boxing writer (THE RING)

1. Ray Robinson
2. Muhammad Ali
3. Joe Louis
4. Sandy Saddler
5. Ike Williams
6. Henry Armstrong
7. Rocky Marciano
8. Ray Leonard
9. George Foreman
10. Floyd Mayweather Jr.
11. Roberto Duran
12. Marvin Hagler
13. Joe Frazier
14. Julio Cesar Chavez
15. Larry Holmes
16. Evander Holyfield
17. Mike Tyson
18. Oscar De La Hoya
19. Bernard Hopkins
20. Ricardo Lopez

## SPRINGS TOLEDO

Boxing author ("The Gods of War")

1. Ray Robinson
2. Henry Armstrong
3. Ezzard Charles
4. Roberto Duran
5. Archie Moore
6. Willie Pep
7. Charley Burley
8. Muhammad Ali
9. Joe Louis
10. Ike Williams
11. Billy Conn
12. Julio Cesar Chavez
13. Kid Gavilan
14. Holman Williams
15. Bernard Hopkins
16. Sandy Saddler
17. Emile Griffith
18. Jose Napoles
19. Pernell Whitaker
20. Manny Pacquiao

## ANSON WAINWRIGHT

Boxing writer

1. Ray Robinson
2. Henry Armstrong
3. Muhammad Ali
4. Ray Leonard
5. Willie Pep
6. Charley Burley
7. Roberto Duran
8. Pernell Whitaker
9. Joe Louis
10. Ezzard Charles
11. Julio Cesar Chavez
12. Roy Jones Jr.
13. Floyd Mayweather Jr.
14. Evander Holyfield
15. Archie Moore
16. Marvin Hagler
17. Sandy Saddler
18. Manny Pacquiao
19. Bernard Hopkins
20. Carlos Monzon

# WILL IT BE DIFFERENT?

## RINGTV.COM EDITOR DOUG FISCHER PROVIDES THE KEYS TO VICTORY

By **Doug Fischer**

**We were reminded in his first fight against Marcos Maidana that Floyd Mayweather Jr. is human.**

**The first Floyd Mayweather** Jr.-Marcos Maidana fight was a reminder of two of boxing's enduring axioms: "Never count out the underdog" and "nobody is unbeatable."

Maidana's stern challenge over 12 fiercely competitive rounds also brought a few things to light.

For starters, the boxing world learned that Maidana is for real. We knew the 30-year-old Argentine slugger was a dangerous opponent given his upset victories over Victor Ortiz and Adrien Broner, but against Mayweather he proved to be more than a rugged spoiler, more than just a contender. Maidana is clearly a world-class operator formidable enough to unseat any top 147-pounder – even an undefeated future first-ballot hall of famer.

We learned that Maidana has evolved under trainer Robert Garcia. He was relentless in spots against Mayweather, but he wasn't reckless. Maidana, who paced himself well throughout the fight, only punched without abandon when Mayweather was pressed to the ropes. And he wasn't an easy target. Mayweather had a difficult time jabbing and countering Maidana over the first half of the bout thanks to the challenger's unexpected jab, upper-body movement and blocking ability.

It's safe to say that the Garcia-trained version of Maidana extended Mayweather as much – or more – than Jose Luis Castillo, Zab Judah, Oscar De La Hoya or Miguel Cotto did during their competitive fights with "Money."

We also learned a few things about Mayweather on May 3, mainly that the unbeaten pound-for-pound king is human. He can be distracted by out-of-the-ring drama, he can be hit, he can be cut, and the 37-year-old veteran might just be prone to Father Time like every other boxer not named Bernard Hopkins.

Insiders who have known Mayweather for 20 years told THE RING that the pay-per-view mogul was distraught and sleepless in the days leading into the Maidana fight mainly over the public backlash to his poor decision to explain on his Facebook page – in what amounted to the ultimate TMI and breach of privacy – why he broke up with ex-girlfriend Shantel Jackson.

However, even though Mayweather was not mentally on his A-game, he proved to possess the intangibles of a special prizefighter. We learned – or were reminded – that Mayweather is as tough as he is talented and skilled, and he remained as resourceful as ever as he made the necessary adjustments to outpoint Maidana down the stretch of the fight.

We were also reminded that he's beatable. The 114-114 scorecard of his majority-decision victory was not a bad one. Maidana arguably won six rounds.

So what does Maidana need to do to win seven or eight rounds or do the unthinkable and score a knockout against one of the best boxers of the past 20 years? And what does Mayweather need to do in order to stretch his remarkable unbeaten streak to 47-0? »

HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES; INSETS: MIKE STOBE/GETTY IMAGES

Here are five keys to victory for each fighter.

## MAIDANA

### MORE JABS

This fundamental punch disrupted Mayweather's rhythm early in the first fight and it helped keep him at bay during his surge in the late rounds. Working the jab earlier in the rematch could help set up a fight-turning power punch before Mayweather warms up.

### MORE BODY SHOTS

The thudding shots to Mayweather's midsection and hips added to Mayweather's slow start and hampered his lateral movement later in the bout. More shots to the body, particularly when Mayweather is along the ropes, will enable Maidana to land more clean punches and may help open up more head shots.

### LESS WEIGHT

Rehydrating to 165 pounds (which is in the super middleweight range) was too much weight for a welterweight to put on overnight and it may have taken away from Maidana's speed and reflexes while contributing to his fatigue/sluggishness in the late stages of the fight.

### THROW MORE HOOKS

The left hook, which was a key weapon again Broner (aka "Mayweather Lite"), can work against Mayweather if timed right. Maidana scored well with his jab and overhand right in the first bout. If he adds a hook to these punches in combination, he will increase his connect ratio and might set up a fight-turning shot to the head.

### BE YOURSELF

Maidana should bring the same attitude to the rematch that he carried into the first bout. He should show Mayweather no respect and be as rough as the referee will allow him to be. This combination has helped rugged fighters beat superior boxing talents throughout boxing history.

## MAYWEATHER

### BE FIRST WITH THE JAB

Mayweather's lack of a consistent jab in the early rounds of the first bout contributed to Maidana's successful start. When Mayweather used his jab, especially his straight left to the body, he was able to stop Maidana in his tracks and occasionally back the slugger up. Using the jab early and often is key in assuming immediate control of the fight.

### TIE HIM UP

Whenever Maidana is able to get in close, Mayweather should initiate a clinch. That tactic worked very well for Devon Alexander, who outclassed and almost shut out Maidana over 10 rounds in February 2012.

### WORK THE BODY

Maidana has reliable whiskers but he's been badly hurt to the body by Amir Khan (who dropped him with a body shot) and by Josesito Lopez.

### USE SMART PRESSURE

Maidana typically fades in the middle rounds of his distance bouts; a mid-fight surge can take advantage of his drop-off in activity. Erik Morales was able to do this during his close majority-decision loss to Maidana and Broner was able to stage a comeback in the middle rounds of his tough scrap with Maidana by walking down his challenger. Mayweather should be able to do this better than Broner or Morales did.

### STAY OFF THE ROPES

Most of Maidana's power punches were landed when Mayweather's back was to the ropes. Staying off the ropes by utilizing more lateral movement and by standing his ground a little more in the center of the ring should enable Mayweather to neutralize much of Maidana's attack.

JOSH HEDGES/GETTY IMAGES

# ALVAREZ'S GAMBLE PAYS OFF ... BARELY

**CANELO** HAS HIS SIGHTS SET ON BIGGER AND BETTER THINGS AFTER A CLOSE CALL AGAINST **ERISLANDY LARA**

By **Michael Rosenthal**

Canelo Alvarez (left) outpointed Erislandy Lara in good part because of body blows.

**As ring announcer Jimmy** Lennon Jr. stood at center ring with mic in hand to announce the winner, no one aside from the officials really knew whose name he would call. It was that close.

Erislandy Lara was at his slick-and-quick best against Canelo Alvarez on July 12 in Las Vegas, forcing the Mexican to chase him much of the night and landing enough hard punches to win rounds. For his part, Alvarez remained in attack mode and eventually got in his licks, particularly thudding blows to the body that seemed to do damage and score points.

So who do you reward? The hit-

and-not-be-hit boxer or the aggressor who took the fight to his foe? It came down to the taste of the judges.

And aggression was the flavor of the night at an MGM Grand packed with fans of the popular redhead. Alvarez emerged with a split-decision victory, winning on two cards (a ridiculous 117-111 from Levi Martinez and 115-113 from Dave Moretti) and losing on one (113-115 from Jerry Roth). I had it a 114-114 draw.

It wasn't the type of result a fighter who fancies himself a superstar anticipates. Alvarez wanted and fully expected to dominate Lara in just another step toward becoming the dominant figure in the sport. That didn't happen.

At the same time, a victory over a very good fighter in peak form – even a controversial one – is a good night's work. Bottom line: Alvarez took a significant risk by tangling with a dangerous, left-handed opponent and managed to have his hand raised.

And while the fight would hardly be described as thrilling, it was compelling because of its magnitude and competitive nature.

Throw out Martinez's score, which didn't reflect what happened a few feet in front him in the ring. The New Mexico judge was rewarded for his performance by being inducted into THE RING's Poor Judge-ment club. (See Page 19 of this issue.)

Moretti and Roth had it right, as the vast majority of those who weighed in after the fact scored the fight in the range of those two judges. Roughly three quarters of those who voted in a RingTV.com poll believe the fight should've been scored within two points – seven rounds to five – either way.

More of those who took part in the poll (45.4 percent) scored the fight for Alvarez than Lara (37.6 percent) but that fairly close split was indicative of conflicting opinions.

Of course, the fighters were certain they should've been awarded the

Lara got some good work done when he planted his feet and threw punches.

JOSH HEDGES/GETTY IMAGES

victory. Alvarez was critical of Lara for what he described as running, a sentiment shared by many others. Lara undoubtedly knew going in that it would be difficult for him to win a decision over what amounted to the house fighter. Still, he cried foul.

"I did my job and it was disgraceful what they did to me," Lara said through his co-manager Luis DeCubas Jr. immediately after the decision was announced.

Also predictable was Lara's demand that he be given a rematch. That's not likely.

Alvarez dodged a bullet against Lara. One could argue that there is no point in tempting fate again, at least not in the near future. And not when there are other viable, more-lucrative options out there at the moment.

"There's 10 guys in line who want to fight Canelo. Lara just got his shot, now he has to get back in line," said Oscar De La Hoya, who promotes Alvarez.

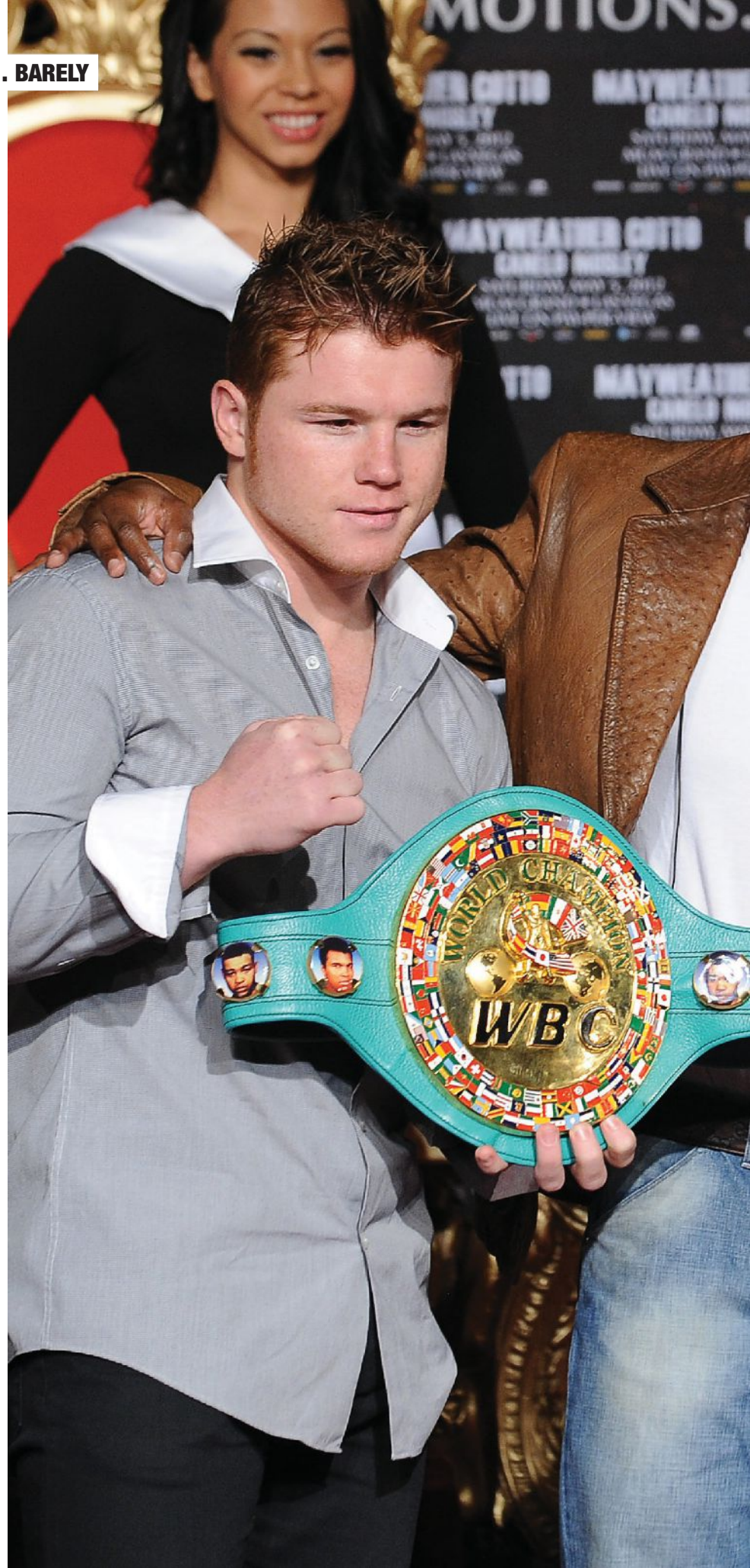
Miguel Cotto, who plans to defend his RING and WBC middleweight titles in December, might be at the front of the line.

An Alvarez-Cotto matchup has all the ingredients of a big promotion: They are both proven drawing cards; Cotto, reborn under trainer Freddie Roach, is coming off of a sensational victory over Sergio Martinez. And there is always the Mexico-Puerto Rico rivalry to boost ticket and pay-per-view sales.

Cotto turned down an offer to fight Alvarez in favor of Martinez last year, saying then that he could envision a showdown with Alvarez in 2014 or 2015. And he reiterated recently that the matchup remains attractive to him, as does a possible fight against Julio Cesar Chavez Jr.

Alvarez might end up waiting, though. He said immediately after beating Lara that he wanted to fight once more this year – probably in November – and then challenge for another world title next year.

That could mean Alvarez will



ROBYN BECK/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

**Alvarez (left) and Cotto (right) posed with Floyd Mayweather Jr. at a press conference to promote the Mayweather-Cotto fight in 2012.**

target Cinco de Mayo weekend of next year for a fight with Cotto. Floyd Mayweather Jr. might have something to say about that because he has claimed the Mexican holidays – Cinco de Mayo and Mexican Independence Day – as dates for his fights. And the fact Alvarez (Showtime) and Cotto (HBO) fight for competing networks at the moment complicates matters.

Still, all parties seem to be optimistic that Alvarez-Cotto could happen sometime soon. And it would be big.

"[Alvarez-Cotto] would be Salvador (Sanchez) vs. (Wilfredo) Gomez, (Julio Cesar) Chavez Sr. vs (Edwin) Rosario, De La Hoya vs. (Felix) Trinidad. Huge!" De La Hoya said shortly after Cotto's victory over Martinez.

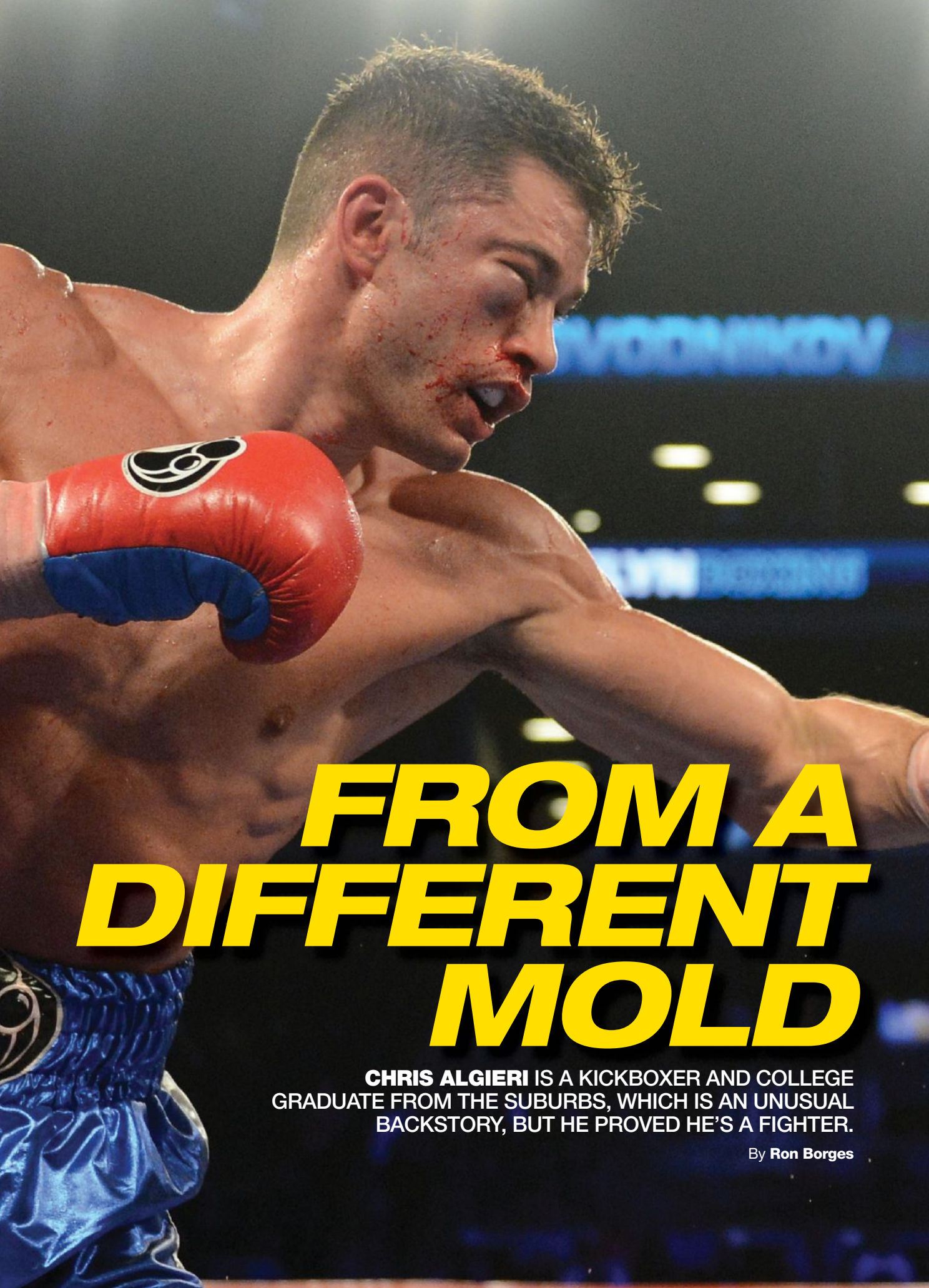
In the meantime, another intriguing option for Alvarez is James Kirkland. The Texan doesn't fight often – only once in 2013 – but his brawling style speaks to fans when he does. That fight would be perceived as less competitive than Alvarez-Cotto but no one would want to miss it.

Kirkland was scheduled to face Alvarez in September 2012 but pulled out, citing a shoulder injury.

And, of course, a rematch with Floyd Mayweather Jr. is possible. That matchup would generate a lot of money – the first fight grossed more than any other fight in history – but Mayweather beat Alvarez easily, which might turn off some fans.

Of course, we wouldn't be having this discussion if things hadn't gone Alvarez's way on July 12. The idea in this sport is to identify and procure good opportunities, find a way to win and then look for the next opportunity.

Canelo Alvarez is in a good position.



# FROM A DIFFERENT MOLD

**CHRIS ALGIERI** IS A KICKBOXER AND COLLEGE GRADUATE FROM THE SUBURBS, WHICH IS AN UNUSUAL BACKSTORY, BUT HE PROVED HE'S A FIGHTER.

By **Ron Borges**

Chris Algieri (left) stunned Ruslan Provodnikov and the boxing world by taking the Russian's junior welterweight title.

NAOKI FUKUDA

One month you're fighting for a few thousand dollars in small clubs like the Paramount on Long Island in New York. Then, suddenly, you're offered $100,000 to be a sacrificial lamb at the altar of a Russian-born junior welterweight champion who claims he ate raw moose liver to survive the Siberian winters. That is a boxer's life on the low rungs of a long ladder.

You accept, of course, because you have bills to pay. The doubters mock you, as doubters always do. You do not listen. You train. You plan. You believe. Then – BOOM – you're on the floor, your right eye swelling shut like storm windows in a hurricane after barely two minutes in the Russian's company. The doubters smirk. At that moment you have a decision to make.

Chris Algieri decided to get up and fight.

Twice.

Now Bob Arum wants to hand him a more than a million dollars to try it again with Manny Pacquiao at the Venetian in Macau, China, in a few months. That's a different boxer's life from the one he's known and it's one you arrive at only if you can get up when the world believes you will stay down.

"They gave me that fight for two reasons," Algieri said of his June 14 split decision upset of then-WBO champion Ruslan Provodnikov. "First, they didn't think I'd get up. They saw it in my future (that he'd go down) and they thought I'd stay there. Second, they wanted to prove Ruslan could beat boxers, not just punchers. They didn't know him and they didn't know me."

That is not the way it usually goes for unknown 30-year-old fringe contenders, but then nothing about Chris Algieri is the usual boxer's story. So, then, why shouldn't it be a champion's story?

Where is it written you have to

sprout from an urban ghetto bereft of opportunity to box successfully? Who decided you have to have known every struggle in the dark corners of life to succeed as a prizefighter? What is the reason that the better man must automatically be the one who ate raw moose liver to survive?

Certainly the normal spawning ground for great boxers is not a Catholic school education on Long Island or ownership of a degree in health care science from Stony Brook (New York) University and a master's degree in clinical nutrition from New York Institute of Technology, but boxing is the sport of the road not taken. It is always a quest into the unknown.

The beauty of boxing is it is the one place where everyone is measured the same. There is only one question to answer: Can you fight or not? If you can, it doesn't matter if you grew up eating raw moose liver or pate de foie gras. And if you can't, it doesn't matter if you hail from the toughest neighborhood in Christendom or the safest place on Earth. All that matters is what you do inside a roped-off square — and how much pain you're willing to absorb to stay there to keep doing it.

The rise of Chris Algieri, master boxer and possible future doctor, is not the story of dining on strange dishes but one of raw courage and steely purpose. It's the story of a 7-1 underdog who got off the canvas twice in the first round to outbox and outfox the lumbering, looming Provodnikov at Barclays Center in Brooklyn to win a world title that in all honesty no one outside his small circle thought possible.

"There's a big difference how people who didn't know me treat me now," Algieri said. "Somebody said to me after the fight, 'I was looking at that guy and thinking thank God I'm not Chris.' In my mind, I couldn't have been in any place better. I hear some fighters say they can't wait until it's over. Why do it, then? I can't wait until Round 1.

"A friend of mine posted something on the internet just before the fight. He said, 'If you don't know Chris, you can't see how he can win. If you do, you don't see how Chris can lose.'"

Barely two minutes into the fight, however, everyone saw how Chris could lose. Provodnikov's had more effect, and Algieri went down with a clatter that echoed through the arena. It sounded as if someone had thrown a 140-pound bag of seed in the back of an empty pickup.

He rose quickly but was fiercely rubbing his right eye, which was beginning to close almost immediately. While he remained aware, Provodnikov was not the first thing on his mind at that moment.

"My eye was swelling so rapidly and my upper lip and my teeth were numb," Algieri said. "I had this pain in my face and my eye was swelling faster than I thought possible. That's why I took a knee the second time. I wasn't sure what kind of damage I'd sustained. It was probably smart because if I hadn't, he might have knocked me out.

"I still had no doubts. I knew before the fight I could outbox him. I thought it would be an easy fight. I knew my advantage and his disadvantage. If he got frustrated, he loses. If I lost focus and stayed in front of him, I lose, so I was mad at myself because I made a mistake. I planned to counter his left hook but not for the first two rounds. I needed to learn his rhythm first but I was standing right in front of him and the ring was surprisingly small and my back hit the ropes and I threw. I landed but he was in the power position. Boxing is the theater of the unexpected."

With his right eye shuttered but his mind clear, Algieri looked like the fighter the doubters had expected. What followed was a theater only Algieri could imagine. Understanding what he needed to do, he got off the canvas and onto his horse. And after learning his lesson the hard way he began to do his job the way he was supposed to. He boxed. Then he boxed some more.

He boxed and boxed and boxed and as he did he began to find Provodnikov more and more. And Provodnikov began to assault him less and less until, when all was said and done, the kid with two college degrees had surgically undressed "The Siberian Rocky," beating him with a velvet hammer.

"You've got to swallow your pride a little bit," Algieri said of a boxing technician's dilemma. "Inside I'm

NAOKI FUKUDA

**Algieri had an air of confidence before, during and after his fight against Provodnikov.**

a fighter. You hit me, I want to hit you back, but we spent our whole camp not doing that. I knew I wasn't supposed to trade early and, if I just boxed, there would be a point where I'd be hitting him with everything. Ruslan is known for breaking guys' will. So do I. We both break an opponent's will. We just do it differently. He tries to beat you up. I make you completely ineffectual.

How do you keep your will strong if you can't hit the guy in front of you?

"I had people ask me before the fight why I agreed to be locked in there with a guy like him. I'm not locked in there with him. He's locked in there with me for 12 rounds. You could see his frustration. He began to have less and less power because he was missing so many punches. It takes a lot out of you when you miss. In the later rounds you could see it in his body language. I wasn't a willing dance partner and he got frustrated. This sport is all about control. To win a round you control the space, you control the rhythm and you control yourself. If you do that, you control your opponent."

From Provodnikov's point of view what Algieri did seemed unseemly. He expected to be at the driving range and instead found himself skeet-shooting at a moving target. He reacted the way many others trapped in his predicament have in the past. He complained.

"I have to admit, runners are not my style," Provodnikov snarled. "He just ran and touched me. He just jabbed and touched me. This is the worst style for me. I like guys who are in front of me and fighting me."

That's not the point of boxing, though. Algieri's job was not to stand in front of him. His job wasn't to fight in a way advantageous to Provodnikov, even though that's what the champion had expected.

What Algieri did after deluding himself in the first round was return to trainers Keith Trimble and Tim Lane's plan. Using his long jab, quick counters and repeated side-to-side movement. Over time he seemed to hypnotize Provodnikov like a dancing cobra. As he did the champion more and more often found himself eating raw leather rather than raw liver, leading trainer Freddie Roach to tell him before the 12th round that he needed a knockout to win.

Later Roach would insist his fighter deserved the victory because he landed the most telling blows but admitted Algieri landed far more scoring punches. And that's really the issue. Had you taken the two of them outside Barclays Center at midnight and asked people in the street who'd won, few would have picked Algieri, whose plum-like swelling had by then totally brought the curtain down on his right eye. But the eye test is not the only one in boxing.

"Power punches win fights," Roach insisted. "He might have outjabbed us, but my guy landed the only punches that had any impact."

Perhaps, but boxing is about more than bruising. It is a vicious form of control Algieri began to master after a brief time as a more Provodnikov-style kickboxer. Had he listened to the pleadings of his family, including his grandfather Carlos Columba, who immigrated to New York from Argentina with a love of both tennis and boxing, he would never have been in this position. But unfortunately for the Algieri family his grandson only fell in love with half of his grandfather's obsessions.

Although well educated and seemingly on a track toward medical school, Algieri couldn't shake a love for combat sports born from watching "Tuesday Night Fights" on USA Network at the knee of his grandfather. At first he fed it with the martial art of Kenpo and later as a high school wrestler before trying his hand (and feet) at kickboxing. Finally, at 19, Algieri found boxing and turned professional without a single amateur fight.

This is not the recommended way to become a prizefighter and far from the traditional road to winning a championship, but little about the well-spoken Algieri the Boxer has been traditional.

"I played every sport in the book but I didn't take to any of them," Algieri said. "I hated team sports. Hated them. I get bored if I'm not the primary person. I kind of wanted to be the center of attention, I guess. That's how I got into martial arts and then boxing. It's the ultimate test. You and another man in there with what you're born with. I'm not the consummate athlete but I was good at school and I took that into boxing. I have to do things over and over and over."

While he was doing them he was also attending college, gaining a graduate degree and thinking often about medicine. Many boxers do but Algieri was thinking about becoming someone who dispenses it, not someone who needs it.

As his career ground slowly along, however, doubts began to creep in. Doubt is the enemy of achievement and the detritus of broken promise and false hope and was difficult to ignore as he fought in small venues for short money, $50,000 in college loans hanging over him unmoving and unchanging.

Periodically his family, though supportive, questioned whether this was the wisest use of his time and his mind. That it was not the safest went without saying, although at times it was mentioned as well. He listened but never faltered.

"Very recently I was asking myself why I was doing this," Algieri admitted. "The past year it was lateral move after lateral move. Being off TV. Not enhancing my career. Not being able to pay the bills. It wasn't making sense. Many, many times I asked myself what I was doing. Looking at the belt now I think of those times. The blood, the financial woes, the loneliness, the thinking I was crazy. There's a lot of heartbreak in the journey but I made the right decision. It was worth it."

It didn't seem that way when his back hit the floor and his eye began to shut against Provodnikov. But even at that moment Algieri was where he wanted to be, armed with an understanding of how this predicament could be reversed. All he needed to do was remember who he was.

"I'm a boxer," Algieri said. "If this was a barroom brawl or we were fighting in a phone booth, it would be a difficult fight for me. But it's not a knife fight. OK, he punished me in the first round but you don't score facial damage, especially in the first round of a 12-round fight. Before the fight (HBO's) Max (Kellerman) asked me what happens when I got tested. He said it in a very doubtful manner. I wasn't worried if I got tested. I knew I'd react the way I reacted.

"I just think because boxing isn't a mainstream sport any more people don't see enough high-level boxing so the subtleties get missed. The shoulder roll, slipping, moving, feinting, footwork. Boxing is so fast the art gets lost on most people. They just want to see a brawl. I like to see them too. I just don't need to be in them."

That lesson first came through when he outboxed Emmanuel Taylor for 10 rounds but it really set in during a sparring session at Robert Garcia's gym in Oxnard, California. Garcia's fighters are most often seen as aggressive punchers, guys like Brandon Rios,

## ATYPICAL CHAMPION

**New junior welterweight titleholder Chris Algieri has an unusual background for a boxer. Here's a look.**

Grew up in the affluent town of Huntington, on New York's Long Island. Still lives there with his family.

Began studying the martial art of Kenpo karate at the age of 10. Earned his black belt at 15.

Began kickboxing at 16. Is the former ISKA world welterweight and WKA super welterweight champion. Retired from kickboxing undefeated (20-0) to become a professional boxer.

Captained his high-school wrestling team. Served as assistant wrestling coach at St. Anthony's High School for three years while attending college.

Holds a B.S. from Stony Brook (New York) University in health care science and an M.S. in nutrition from New York Institute of Technology.

Enjoys cooking.

Had no amateur boxing experience yet is 20-0 as a pro and defeated Ruslan Provodnikov to win the WBA 140-pound title on June 14. He will face Manny Pacquiao on Nov. 22.

**Algieri was overcome by emotion after winning his first major world title.**

NAOKI FUKUDA

Marcos Maidana and Garcia's little brother, Mikey.

They all come in throwing punches with one thing in mind: mayhem. So Algieri was surprised to hear what Garcia said to him after he easily won a round by boxing expertly for three minutes.

"'Just do that!'" Algieri recalled. "That's what he said, I said, 'But I didn't do much.' He goes, 'So? You won the round. This is about winning.' If Robert Garcia can say that when he trains a guy like Brandon Rios, well, I listened."

Because some felt Provodnikov's early damage should have been enough to carry the day, there have been calls for a rematch, but Algieri believes "we had 12 rounds to work that out." He feels it is time to move on to big-money fights like Pacquiao. At 30, some would say he's in his prime but to a boxer with options the clock is ticking.

**'WE TOOK SHORT MONEY FOR A VERY DANGEROUS FIGHT. I WON'T DO THAT AGAIN. WE'RE SORTING OUT HOW TO CAPITALIZE ON THIS OPPORTUNITY AND YOU CAN'T GET BIGGER THAN MANNY PACQUIAO. THAT'S WHY WE TOOK THE RISK.'**
– CHRIS ALGIERI

He doesn't owe anything, having used his winnings to retire his college debt, but he still lives in the basement of the family duplex and insists he is "the same nerd I always have been" even after recently appearing on CBS' "Unforgettable." He remains unchanged by victory but not unmoved by it.

"My post-boxing education, career and life path are not set in stone but I'm not going to be a career fighter," he said. "I'm not Bernard Hopkins, fighting at 50. I feel I have a lot to offer in another discipline but I want to capitalize on this time now. We took short money for a very dangerous fight. I won't do that again. We're sorting out how to capitalize on this opportunity and you can't get bigger than Manny Pacquiao. That's why we took the risk.

"This is the first time I've been debt-free. For a long time my goal in boxing was to be at zero. Now we'll see where we go."

Wherever that is you can count on one thing: Chris Algieri will end up on his feet and fighting back. RING

**AT RINGTV.COM**

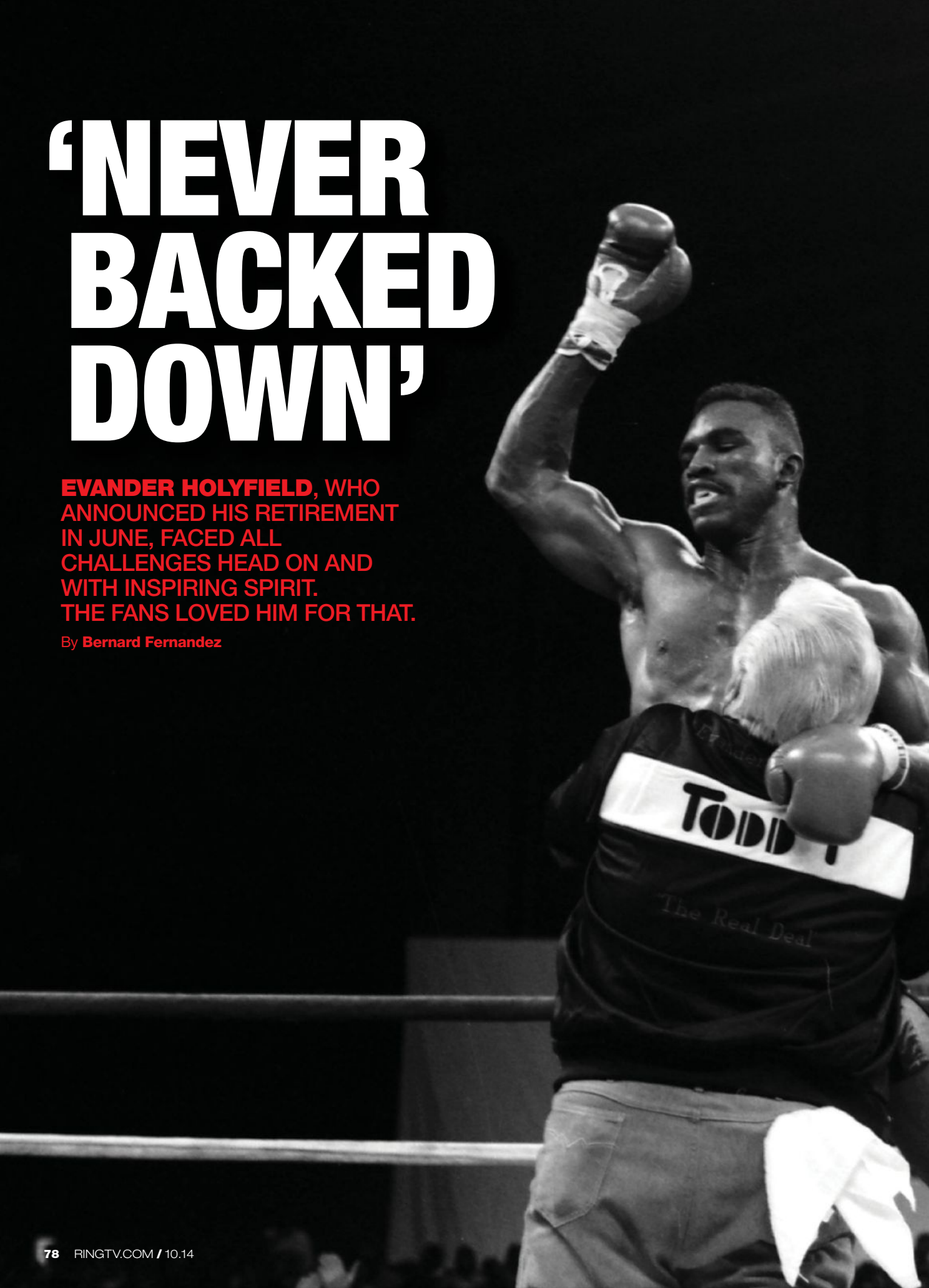
**Video:** Chris Algieri has confidence going into his fight against Manny Pacquiao on Nov. 22.

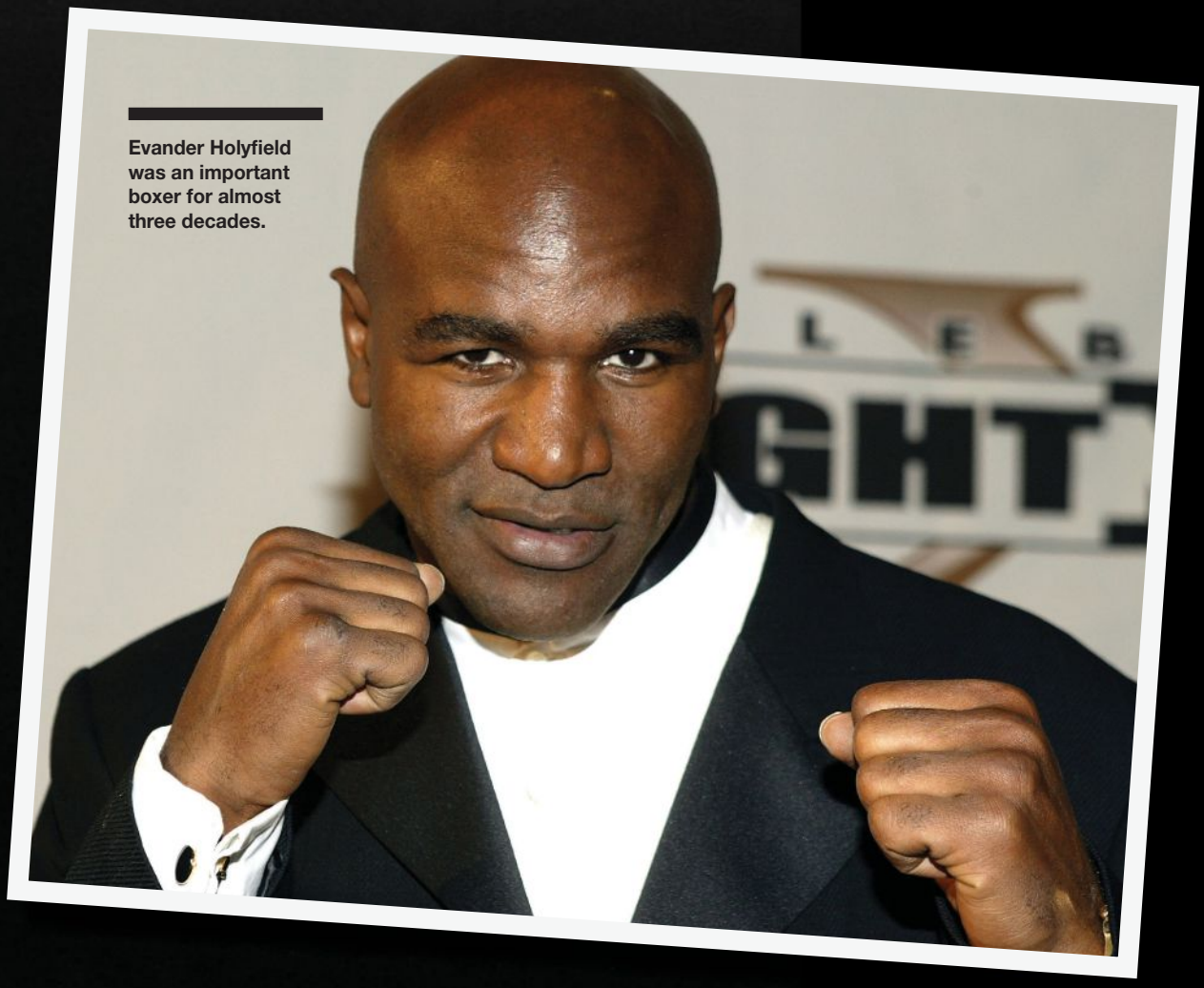
Scan the QR code below or go to http://bit.ly/algierivideo.

# ‘NEVER BACKED DOWN’

**EVANDER HOLYFIELD**, WHO ANNOUNCED HIS RETIREMENT IN JUNE, FACED ALL CHALLENGES HEAD ON AND WITH INSPIRING SPIRIT. THE FANS LOVED HIM FOR THAT.

By **Bernard Fernandez**





Evander Holyfield was an important boxer for almost three decades.

*Do not go gentle into that good night.*
*Old age should burn and rage at close of day;*
*Rage, rage against the dying of the light.*
*— Dylan Thomas*

**That most proud and obstinate** of heavyweight champions, Evander Holyfield, finally appears to have stifled the last vestiges of rage against the dying of his own light as a boxer. Then again, if Wladimir Klitschko were somehow to extend an invitation to the nearly 52-year-old Holyfield to swap punches for a handsome purse and a shot at Klitschko's many championship belts (including THE RING's) … well, who knows?

"I'm done," Holyfield, still looking very fit, said in late June at a New York City press conference to announce his role as an advisor to Chinese heavyweight Zhang Zhilei. "They're putting me in the [Nevada Boxing] Hall of Fame on Aug. 9, so [my retirement] will be official then. Won't nobody fight me, and now I don't want to get hit."

If Holyfield is to be believed – and he previously has reacted with

THE RING MAGAZINE; INSET: CARLO ALL…/GETTY IMAGES

revulsion to any suggestion that he hang up the gloves – the next stage of his remarkable boxing life will include his association with Zhang and the role of "goodwill ambassador" for a newly formed promotional company – Dynasty Boxing – that is headed by Dino Duva and brothers Tommy and Terry Lane, sons of Hall of Fame referee Mills Lane.

Duva is the son of another Hall of Famer, Lou Duva, who served as Holyfield's manager and co-trainer when the "Real Deal" turned pro way back in October 1984, as well as the brother of the late Dan Duva, who was Holyfield's first promoter. It also should be noted that the Lanes' dad was the referee who disqualified Mike Tyson for twice chomping Holyfield's ears in the infamous "Bite Fight" of June 28, 1997. Holyfield is loyal to those he believes have been loyal or at least fair to him, an attribute that often is in short supply in the cutthroat world of big-time boxing.

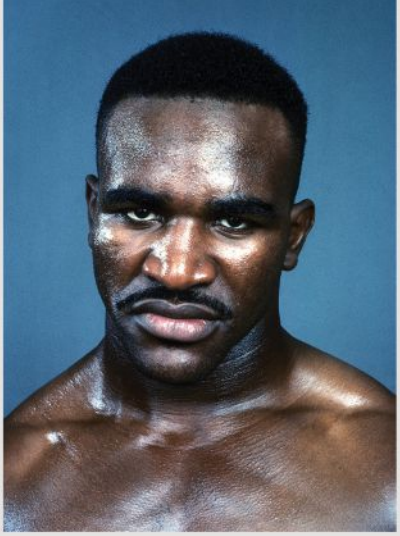
"The Duva family is special to me, and I am looking forward to working with Dino Duva and the entire team at Dynasty Boxing," Holyfield said, but then suggested that the gig with Dynasty Boxing will be a mere stopover on the way to a grander stage.

"I want to go into the promoter business," Holyfield said in a far-ranging interview with THE RING. "I didn't want to be a trainer, but as a promoter I think I could give my fighters the opportunities to become champions, to put them in the best position to fight for titles. There are a lot of good fighters who never get that chance."

Holyfield surely understands that the smoke-filled back rooms in which promoters often must operate can be just as treacherous, in their own way, as a fighter going toe-to-toe with opponents bigger and stronger than himself. But when has he ever turned his back on a challenge? Every time he has faced adversity, large or small, he spit in its eye and dealt with it head-on. That's what the public loved about him, despite the fact that his indomitable will didn't always yield the most favorable results in or out of the ring. Even when his light was at its brightest, it always seemed he was raging against the inevitability of its dying.

There were those who regarded Holyfield as an object of pity when his advancing age and diminishing skills had the effect of dragging him down from the lofty heights of superstardom he once enjoyed. During a particularly dismal six-year period, from March 1999 to November 2004, he went 2-5-2 and gave every indication that he was an emptying vessel. But like crabgrass and the swallows at Capistrano, Holyfield kept returning, convinced that he still had another great fight, or two or three, left in him. He had his share of stumbles and comparatively pedestrian performances, but he later was the victim of one of the more execrable injustices in boxing history, a majority-decision loss to 7-foot, 310 ¾ -pound WBA titlist Nikolai Valuev on Dec. 20, 2008, in Zurich, Switzerland. Holyfield clearly out-hustled the plodding Russian – who had advantages of 96 ½ pounds, 10 inches in height and seven inches in reach – and should have come away as the only person ever to hold a version of the heavyweight championship on five different occasions, which would have broken the record of four set by, um, himself.

Holyfield does not suffer perceived injustice readily, which is why he continued to soldier on when rationality dictated that his quixotic quest to meet and defeat a Klitschko, be it Wladimir or his now-retired older brother, Vitali, seemed the pugilistic equivalent of tilting at windmills. It was a clearly frustrated Holyfield who said he would finally give up the ghost at a party in Beverly Hills, California, to celebrate his 50th birthday, on Oct.



## THREE-PART SERIES

**Evander Holyfield took part in 25 major world title fights in his career, going 16-7-2 in those fights. That includes a mark of 11-4-1 in title defenses (which are designated below by asterisks). His career in title fights could be divided into three parts: perfection at cruiserweight, a highly successful run as a heavyweight and a futile period at heavyweight as he aged. Here's a look.**

### CRUISERWEIGHT (1986-1988)

**Record: 6-0 (5 KOs)**

**1986** Dwight Muhammad Qawi W SD
**1987** Henry Tillman W TKO 7*
**1987** Ricky Parkey W TKO 3*
**1987** Ossie Ocasio W TKO 11*
**1987** Qawi W KO 4*
**1988** Carlos De Leon W TKO 8*#

### HEAVYWEIGHT (1990-1998)

**Record: 9-2 (4 KOs)**

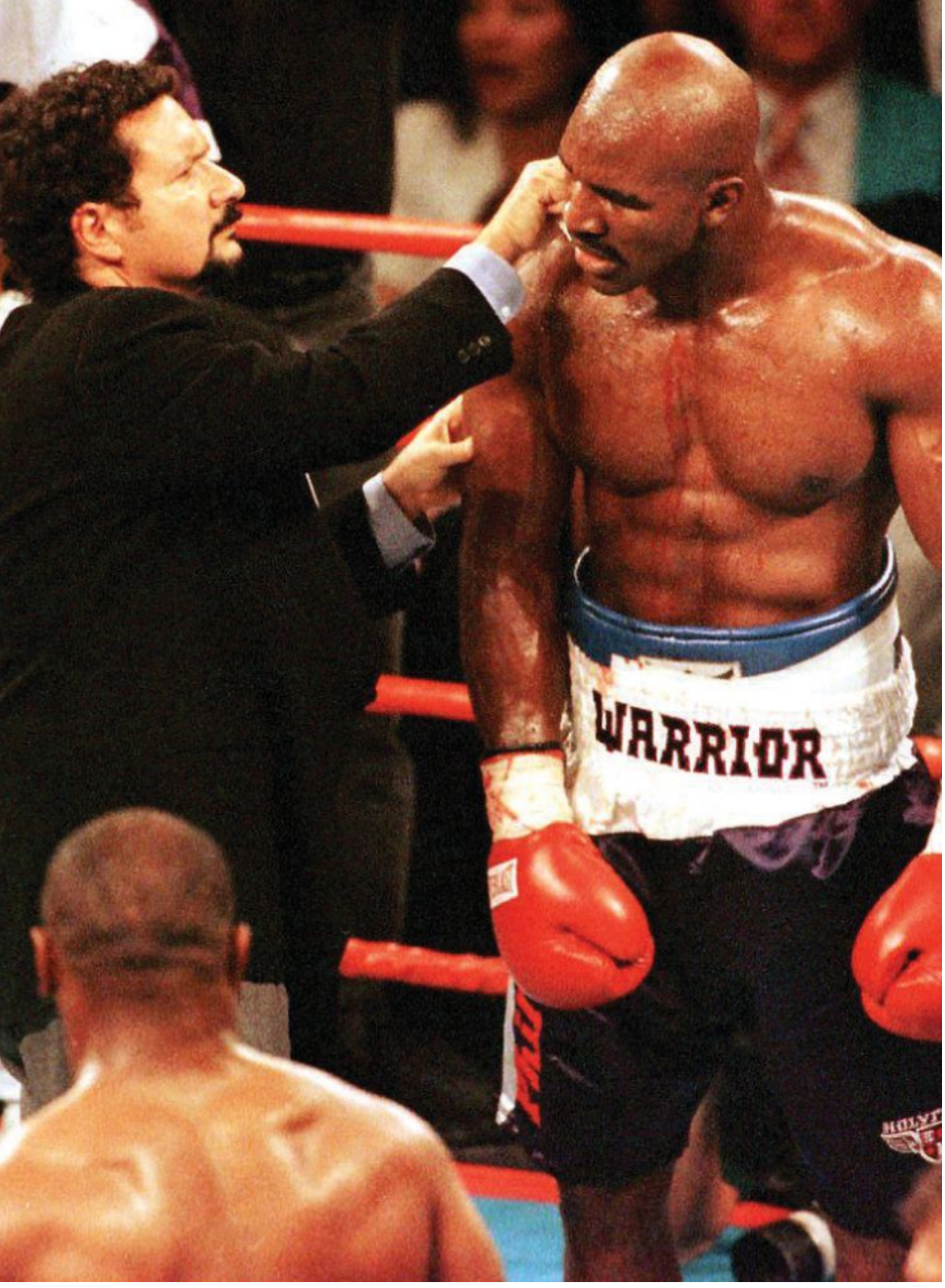
**1990** Buster Douglas W KO 3#
**1991** George Foreman W UD*#
**1991** Bert Cooper W TKO 7*
**1992** Larry Holmes W UD*#
**1992** Riddick Bowe L UD*#
**1993** Bowe W MD
**1994** Michael Moorer L MD*
**1996** Mike Tyson W TKO 11
**1997** Tyson W DQ 3*
**1997** Moorer W TKO 8*
**1998** Vaughn Bean W UD*

### HEAVYWEIGHT (1999-2008)

**Record: 1-5-2 (no KOs)**

**1999** Lennox Lewis D*#
**1999** Lewis L UD*#
**2000** John Ruiz W UD
**2001** Ruiz L UD*
**2001** Ruiz D
**2002** Chris Byrd L UD
**2007** Sultan Ibragimov L UD
**2008** Nikolai Valuev L MD

# – Designates fights for undisputed world titles




**Holyfield is remembered as much for losing part of his ear against Mike Tyson as he is for his accomplishments.**

19, 2012. But he reneged on that decision a day later.

"I already told people I was going to retire, but this morning, when I woke up, I thought about it some more and now I'm not going to retire," he said in announcing his change of heart. "Boxing is what I do best. It's what I know. They (the Klitschkos) won't fight me. They have the right. If I can't get the championship fight, then I'll continue to wait. Somebody is going to beat them at some point and then I'll fight the winner. I can beat them. I feel I can beat anyone."

But another big fight, one that fit Holyfield's cheery vision of what the future should hold, never materialized. Thus his final bout was and shall remain his 10th-round stoppage of Brian Nielsen on May 7, 2011, in Copenhagen, Denmark. Nielsen at the time was 46 years old and hadn't fought in nine years.

At his best, though, Holyfield was truly special if only because his greatness never leaped out at you in the most apparent ways. He was widely regarded as the Little Engine That Could, somehow cobbling together an awe-inspiring skill set and heaping measures of desire to become a champion with whom the common fan could identify. He was the honest workman who always gave the impression that his blue collar was reinforced with a double order of starch.

While admiration for Holyfield is nearly universal, it can be argued that his image is not smudge-free. On Feb. 28, 2007, he was anonymously linked to a pharmaceutical company in Alabama that came under investigation for supplying athletes with illegal performance-enhancing drugs. Holyfield has steadfastly denied ever using PEDs. However, according to a Sports Illustrated report, some banned substances were shipped by the company to a patient named "Evan Fields" who had the same date of birth (Oct. 19, 1962) as Holyfield and had a phone number that, when called, was answered by the fighter.

The circumstantial evidence probably would constitute enough of a smoking gun in baseball to keep Holyfield out of that sport's Hall of Fame, as appears will be the case for such steroids-tainted players as Rafael Palmeiro, Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa. However, Boxing is a different animal It is presumed that Holyfield will be a virtually automatic selection when his name appears on the ballot for induction in the International Boxing Hall of Fame Class of 2017.

Two of Holyfield's signature victories came over someone who already is enshrined in Canastota, New York – Mike Tyson – who, somewhat ironically, agreed to be Holyfield's presenter for the Nevada Boxing Hall of Fame induction ceremony. There remains a lingering sentiment among Tyson supporters that their hero, had he not served three-plus years in prison, would have been too much for Holyfield to handle had they fought when they first were

scheduled to, on Nov. 8, 1991. That fight was postponed when, on Sept. 9, 1991, Tyson was indicted on a rape charge. When Holyfield and Tyson did finally square off, on Nov. 9, 1996, Holyfield scored an 11th-round technical knockout. He then added a third-round disqualification victory 7½ months later when Tyson chewed off a piece of Holyfield's right ear as if it were a buttered bagel.

Would Holyfield – who was an opening-line 25-1 underdog for the long-delayed first matchup with Tyson – have prevailed had they met five years earlier?

"One hundred percent, yes," opined Teddy Atlas, the color analyst for ESPN's "Friday Night Fights" and a former trainer of Tyson during Tyson's formative years at Cus D'Amato's Catskill, New York, compound. "You are what you are. People born round don't die square. People who are not made of that cloth are never going to be made of that cloth. Holyfield was made of that cloth. He was brought up in a strict, tough way down South by his mother. He was expected to behave in a certain way, he was expected to be responsible. He was taught early to face what had to be faced.

"Holyfield every day of the week and twice on Sunday would have been too much man for Tyson. Holyfield was created to be a guy that never backed down, who couldn't be intimidated. He didn't have the great physical abilities in certain areas that Tyson had, the explosiveness, the pure power and the speed. He didn't have all that. He was OK in every department, but he wasn't great at anything. But where Holyfield was great was his determination and his dependability, and that made him a guy that would always be too much for Tyson."

Interestingly, Holyfield – the youngest of nine children – now cites his mother, Annie L. Holyfield, and a young Tyson as perhaps the two most positive influences on his career, which in reality is far more impressive than its raw numbers of 44-10-2 (29 knockouts). He fought every elite heavyweight during his era (and, don't forget, he was the undisputed cruiserweight champion before moving up), ducking no one, and never once was his focus clouded by doubt or fear.

Well, that's not quite true. There was at least one instance when Holyfield was ready to give up on his dream. But his mom, who supported her family by working 12 hours a day, six days a week as a cook in Atlanta, would have none of it.

"When I was 11, I got beat up by a guy named Cecil Collins," said Holyfield, referring to his early days as amateur. "He was this little white kid. I thought I would beat him up because I was bigger and, you know, I didn't think white kids could fight. He beat me twice, but I beat him the third time. It's amazing what that third fight did for me. I might not have gotten as far as I did if he had beaten me again. He's the only guy I ever hit who didn't cry. I hit him and he hit me back. I kept hitting him, and he kept hitting me back. He didn't quit. I was annoyed.

"I wanted to quit, but my momma wouldn't let me. She said she didn't raise no quitter. When he beat me the second time, she said, 'No, you got to work harder.' So I did. When I finally beat him, Momma said, 'All right, you can quit boxing now if you want to.' I said, 'Why would I want to quit now? If I can beat Cecil Collins, I can beat anybody!'"

It was that refusal to yield to adversity, and the understanding that there were others working as hard as he did, that shaped Holyfield into the ultimate personification of boxing dedication. He cites the 17-year-old Tyson, who was in camp with him when both were trying to qualify for berths on the United States boxing squad at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, as a role model of sorts.

"I was bigger and stronger than Mike Tyson," Holyfield said. "My

## MAKING OF A STAR

**Evander Holyfield had many victories in a career that will surely lead him into the International Boxing Hall of Fame. He was 16-7-2 in major world title fights, including victories over some of the most accomplished fighters of the past few generations. However, the five victories below defined him more than any others. (In chronological order.)**

### DWIGHT MUHAMMAD QAWI I

**Date:** July 12, 1986 ★ **Location:** Atlanta ★ **Result:** SD 15 ★ **At stake:** Qawi's WBA cruiserweight title ★ **Background:** Holyfield had only 11 pro fights when he faced this veteran dynamo with a style and energy reminiscent of Joe Frazier. Qawi took Holyfield to hell and back in a brutal war but Holyfield, displaying the massive heart that would contribute so much to his greatness, emerged with a victory and the cruiserweight championship.

### BUSTER DOUGLAS

**Date:** Oct. 25, 1990 ★ **Location:** Las Vegas ★ **Result:** KO 3 ★ **At stake:** Douglas' undisputed heavyweight title ★ **Background:** Douglas was coming off perhaps the biggest upset in boxing history, his historic 10th-round knockout of Mike Tyson to win the undisputed championship. He obviously wasn't ready for what Holyfield brought in his first defense. The young, hungry and much better challenger needed only 7 minutes, 10 seconds to become the heavyweight champ.

### RIDDICK BOWE II

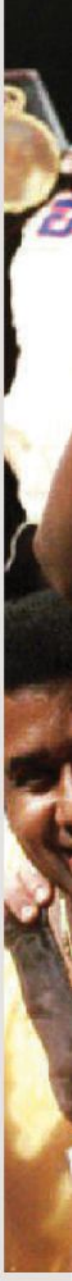
**Date:** Nov. 6, 1993 ★ **Location:** Las Vegas ★ **Result:** MD 12 ★ **At stake:** Bowe's WBA and IBF heavyweight titles ★ **Background:** Some people forget how good Bowe was at his best: a quick, athletic boxer with considerable punching power. Plus, he was much bigger than the undersized challenger. Still, Holyfield helped make their three-fight series one of the best ever. And he won the second installment, in part because Bowe came in heavier than usual.

### MIKE TYSON I

**Date:** Nov. 9, 1996 ★ **Location:** Las Vegas ★ **Result:** TKO 11 ★ **At stake:** Tyson's WBA heavyweight title ★ **Background:** Holyfield, coming off a so-so performance against Bobby Czyz, was a 25-1 underdog at one point going into his long-awaited showdown with Tyson. That's why what transpired was shocking. From the outset, Holyfield outboxed and outslugged Tyson until a barrage of punches forced the referee to save Tyson from further punishment.

### MICHAEL MOORER II

**Date:** Nov. 8, 1997 ★ **Location:** Las Vegas ★ **Result:** TKO 8 ★ **At stake:** Moorer's IBF and Holyfield's WBA heavyweight titles ★ **Background:** Holyfield had beaten Tyson twice going into this fight, including the ear-biting debacle, to prove he was at his best. He had some unfinished business, though. He lost his titles to Moorer in 1994, in part because of a rotator cuff injury. Holyfield put Moorer down five times in the rematch, leaving no doubt as to which fighter was better.



CARLOS SCHIEBECK/AP/GETTY IMAGES

**Holyfield is pictured after arguably his greatest victory, a majority decision over Riddick Bowe for the heavyweight championship in 1993.**

arms were longer. I was taller. My thinking was, if Mike Tyson could beat the daylights out of all those guys, I could, too. When you see somebody you feel you're just as good as, and they're doing something, of course you're gonna feel you could do it. I thought, 'Why does Mike win?' And I knew it was because he trained so freakin' hard. He took chances. He's the only fighter I know who would jump off the floor to hit somebody. If somebody caught him in the air, they could knock him slap-out, but they were afraid of him because he was throwing those vicious punches. Yeah, he had snap on his shots, but I didn't see him break nothin' on nobody.

"I appreciated all the things Mike could do, but I realized I could box better than him. He could bang you out with one shot, but other than that I knew I would hit you more times than Mike would hit you. I will say that he was the only person in that gym at that time that would outwork me. I seen all the things this man do and wondered where he got all that energy. I ain't never seen anybody with that much energy. But things started changing for him when he left (trainer) Kevin Rooney. His cadence changed. He fought with a more predictable rhythm.

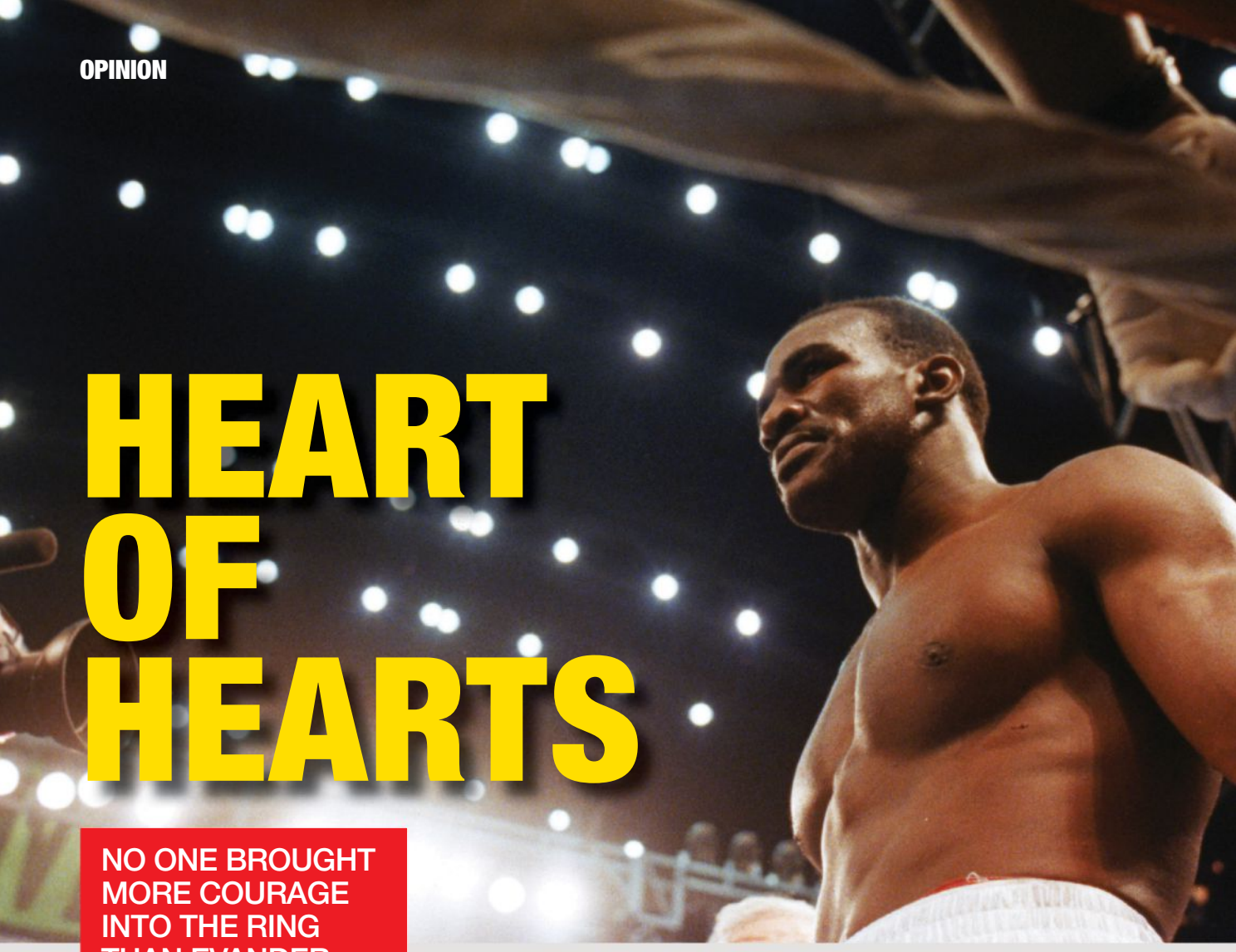
"When I did get around to fighting him, I wasn't afraid of him, and he knew I wasn't afraid of him. And man, I couldn't miss him. Every time I hit him I hurt him."

Holyfield now has what he calls an amicable relationship with Tyson, which might come as a surprise given that chewed-off part of his ear. He went into only two fights holding any sort of a personal grudge, he now says. One was his first bout with Riddick Bowe because Bowe had dared to say that he expected Holyfield to run rather than stand and fight. The second was his first pairing with Lennox Lewis because Lewis had charged that Holyfield's Christian faith was in conflict with his having so many children out of wedlock. (Five of Holyfield's 11 children were born outside the bonds of matrimony. He has been divorced three times.)

"That was a cheap shot," Holyfield said.

Now that he apparently has thrown his last punch for pay, Holyfield said he has no regrets, at least none that came inside the ropes. But he is disappointed at himself for going through most, if not all, of his estimated $230 million fortune and being forced to sell his 54,000-square-foot mansion in Fairburn, Georgia, his private Xanadu.

"I learned how to get money, a lot of money, but I wasn't able to keep it because I didn't have nobody to teach me how to keep money," he said. "That's on me. I know I made mistakes. But that's all right. Right to the end, a lot of people didn't expect me to do nothin'. No matter what I did, the doubters didn't believe in me. It's like my momma said, though. She said, 'Son, don't let nobody else determine your destiny.' And I didn't, because when all was said and done, I believed in myself. I mean, if you don't believe in yourself, who will?" RING



# HEART OF HEARTS

## NO ONE BROUGHT MORE COURAGE INTO THE RING THAN EVANDER HOLYFIELD

By **Tim Smith**

**Evander Holyfield had an unshakeable belief in himself.**

**Evander Holyfield wasn't the** biggest heavyweight champion ever. But he might have had the biggest heart. He fought all comers from before his generation (George Foreman, Larry Holmes ) and in his own generation (Mike Tyson, Riddick Bowe, Lennox Lewis, Hasim Rahman, Chris Byrd, Michael Moorer). Looking around the heavyweight division today there isn't another Holyfield just around the corner.

For the last decade there have been calls for Holyfield to hang up the gloves and pull up the rocking chair. At age 51 and with no chance of ever fighting for a heavyweight world championship again, Holyfield decided to listen to those calls.

The Real Deal is done. He finished his career with a record of 44-10-2 with 29 KOs. He was scheduled to be inducted into the Nevada Boxing Hall of Fame on Aug. 9. He will have to wait another two years to be considered for the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York. But when the time comes, he will go into the shrine on roller skates, to paraphrase former New York Giants Coach Bill Parcells.

It doesn't matter whether you think Holyfield overstayed his time in boxing; you have to appreciate his body of work as a boxer and as a heavyweight champion. And when history finally has its say, Holyfield will rank among the top heavyweights of all time.

Holyfield hasn't fought in over three years. The clock had been ticking since that painful loss to Larry Donald at Madison Square Garden in 2004, which prompted then-New York State Athletic Commission chairman Ron Scott Stevens to place Holyfield on administrative suspension. Holyfield said shoulder problems forced him to fight like a statue that night. So he fought the suspension. It was eventually lifted and Holyfield went on to fight nine more times, but nothing like the man who went toe-to-toe with Riddick Bowe three times (two losses) and twice with Mike Tyson (losing a piece of his right ear).

He last held the heavyweight title in 2000, defeating an awkward John Ruiz for the WBA crown and then

ANDREW D. BERNSTEIN/GETTY IMAGES

going on to lose a decision and draw with Ruiz in 2001. Holyfield came close to winning the WBA title again in 2008, but lost a horrible majority decision to the 7-foot Russian plodder Nikolai Valuev in Zurich, Switzerland.

Holyfield nearly tarnished his legacy by holding on to a pipe dream of regaining the undisputed heavyweight championship for far too long. It was never going to happen. He realized it, but by the time he did he had run out of money. An excessive lifestyle, divorce settlements, child-support payments and bad investments can do a lot of damage to $230 million in ring earnings (his estimate).

Like fine gold, however, the legacy will shine through. It's easy to forget the last decade of Holyfield's career when you consider how superb the first two decades were.

The first live boxing match I ever covered was his 15-round war of attrition against Dwight Muhammad Qawi – a boxer forged in the crucible of Camden and the New Jersey prison system – in Atlanta in 1986. Holyfield won the WBA cruiserweight title on a 15-round split decision. It remains one of the greatest boxing matches I've ever seen live, falling before or after Diego Corrales-Jose Luis Castillo depending upon the day or my mood. After the fight Holyfield had to go to the hospital for IV fluids. He lost so much water that his kidneys nearly shut down.

When his trainers, Lou Duva and George Benton, told me after the fight that they were going to take Holyfield up to heavyweight, I, like most people, took one look at those spindly legs and laughed. But Holyfield has had the last laugh on all of us.

He was a splendid heavyweight champion, driven by an insatiable desire to win and a heart the size of Jupiter. If you could have put Holyfield's heart inside of Riddick Bowe's chest, you'd have a heavyweight champion that would have gone undefeated and might still be reigning today.

It was those qualities and his homespun nature – he was born in Atmore, Alabama, and raised in Atlanta – that made him irresistible to the press. There was nothing better than to go to one of Holyfield's late-night workouts and sit around for hours afterward talking boxing.

Holyfield started his professional boxing career when Ronald Reagan was president. He hadn't planned on retiring during the Obama administration, but circumstances left him little choice.

"When I realized that the Klitschkos weren't going to fight me," he said of when it became clear that he needed to call it quits. "The other guy who was the champion, (Alexander) Povetkin, said he was going to fight me, then all of a sudden he said no. He said he was going to fight Klitschko."

It will haunt him forever, because in his heart he knows he could have beaten the Klitschkos. That is what made Holyfield a special champion.

"Yeah it bothered me a little bit," he said of the opportunity that will never come. "I realized that I had the style [to beat them]. I could fight inside. When they reach out and grab from the outside, that's an amateur move. When you don't throw body shots they can do that. If he would have reached out like that to grab me, I would have hit him right to the ribs. He wouldn't ever reach out to grab me like that again and I would be throwing more punches."

Now Holyfield hopes to pass along that technical savvy and vast ring experience to Zhang Zhilei, a Chinese heavyweight whom promoter Dino Duva is banking on becoming a world champion. Holyfield said Zhang has the tools.

"It's pretty much what he chooses to do," he said. "Does he have the heart? We feel like he does have the heart. He has the size and everything that is necessary to be [heavyweight champion]. The only thing you have to tell him is that he has to want to be it. If he wants to be it, he will be it."

Holyfield made it clear that he is not going to train Zhang. That will be up to Joe Greer and Harold Knight, who worked with former heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis and alongside Emanuel Steward.

Zhang was scheduled to make his pro debut on a card Aug. 8 in Fallon, Nevada, the day before Holyfield goes into the Nevada Boxing Hall of Fame and makes his retirement official.

Holyfield said there may be a time when he steps into the ring with the boxing gloves on again but only for instructional purposes to help Zhang. And he will do so reluctantly.

"I could. But he has to need it," Holyfield said. "We get sparring partners to get in there. I shouldn't have to take no licks. I'm not looking to take no licks. For him to get to the level he needs to, if I had to, I would."

Holyfield said he is already in the process of re-inventing himself for the next phase of his life. He is on the speakers circuit.

"People pay me to sit around and talk about myself and my fights," he said. "That's something I know how to do."

And nobody will be taking a swing at him. After a magnificent boxing career, that's a sweet deal for the Real Deal. RING

# INSIDE THE MIND OF TYSON FURY

THE ENGLISHMAN OPENS UP ABOUT HIS LIFELONG BELIEF HE'D BE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP, HIS TRAVELLER BACKGROUND AND THE REASONS HE FIGHTS

By **Gareth A Davies**

**I had a fascinating conversation** with Tyson Fury a few days before Dereck Chisora withdrew from their title eliminator in July, after which Alexander Ustinov agreed to fill in only to watch Fury pull out when his uncle fell ill. You have to feel for Fury, with former world titleholder David Haye also having pulled out of two very high-profile contests against him. If Fury can stay patient, and continue to build, his time will come.

Fury is riveting when he opens up. He said he felt from a young age that he was destined to fight as one of world's "big men" even though he was premature and at serious risk at birth. He is 6 feet 9 inches.

"My dad was a professional boxer. From a very, very young age I said to everybody that I'd be the heavyweight champion of the world. People started to believe me when I got to about 14 or 15 and had one amateur fight to my name," he told me.

"I always believed I'd never have an amateur fight and would just turn professional and become champion of the world. Most of my family believed me. ... There were no ifs, buts or maybes. It was just something I was always going to do."

The 26-year-old is part of a cultural change in his race. He is a traveller, his grandparents having lived in caravans. His parents departed from that tradition. "Fair fights," the hand-to-hand combat by which travellers settled their disputes, were not part of his upbringing.

"My fights always took place in boxing gyms," he said. "Never had any 'fair fights.' I wasn't brought up in an environment where other travellers wanted to fight. I wasn't brought up on a (traveller) site or around other travellers. …

"We just had a normal upbringing. There wasn't any fighting or screaming and shouting. The only fighting that went on was between me and my brother, Shane. My dad, when he was a child, lived on a site. And my mum did as well. But I've never lived on a site apart from when I was training in a caravan."

Fury remains a traveller, nonetheless, and proud of it. "It doesn't matter whether I've got a

PAUL THOMAS/GETTY IMAGES

Tyson Fury said boxing is a business to him, "nothing more."

house or a caravan; it's irrelevant. I could easily jump in a caravan and live on a site for the next 25 years. It's no big deal for me. I'm an adapter and can fit into any environment.

"All the luxuries I have right now are great but it's all short-lived, isn't it? We come and go. It's all material things. And if you worship material things, you ain't going to heaven. I believe in God and if he wants to take everything I have, including my life, I'm happy for him to do so.

"There are lots of travellers who have never lived on sites. Just because you're a traveller doesn't mean you have to live in a trailer on a site somewhere. You're born a traveller. You're born into that state of life. You can't become a traveller. If you want to live on a site somewhere and buy ten caravans and ride horses all day, it still doesn't mean you're a traveller. There are plenty of people pretending to be travellers but it ain't something you can fake.

"No matter how much you might want to be traveller, or might not want to be a traveller, you haven't got a choice. You are born one. It's not like a religion. You don't choose anything. You can't become a tiger and you can't become a traveller."

Whatever anyone says about Fury – his apparent mood swings on Twitter, singing in the ring or downright doggedness through the self-belief that he will one day be a heavyweight champion – he makes for compelling listening.

"I see things for what they really are and my faith helps me with that as well," he said. "My faith in God helps me to see right through things. A lot of people my age are only interested in two things: money and being successful.

"A lot of these people don't have responsibilities. They don't have a wife, they don't have kids. They don't have a family life. Having a family life really opens your eyes to the world. It ain't just about me anymore. I've got other people I have to be concerned about. I put those people above myself now."

Fury continued: "I see boxing for what it is. Boxing, for me, is a business. It's nothing more and nothing less. I do it because I'm good at it and I'm able to do it and it's the only thing I'm able to do to provide money for my family. That's why I'm so hungry and so brave and so game when I'm in that ring. I know if I lose or if I don't fulfill my goals, my family is going to go backwards. And I don't want that. I want my family to go forwards.

"I don't flash money around or try to impress people. That only makes people who don't have money feel bad. That's not what I want to do. Life is very short and I see life as a test. What are you going to do to help others? I'm doing the best I can do right now."

How can we fault that attitude?

★

## JASON QUIGLEY

Some debut for Irishman Jason Quigley, who fought professionally for the first time on the Canelo Alvarez–Erislandy Lara card July 12 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

I caught up with the former amateur star there shortly after he'd taken 82 seconds to stop a much smaller Howard Reece.

"It was a great experience for me. This is the capital of professional boxing, the MGM Grand, and that's another dream come true for me. I'm absolutely delighted with the result," he said.

Quigley was signed as a freshly minted professional by Oscar De La Hoya himself.

"The first time I was at the Golden Boy offices," he said, "Oscar was there to greet me. That was absolutely amazing. He said, 'Look, we're going to go at your pace. If you want to move fast, we'll move fast. If you want to go slow, we'll go slow. So long as you're happy and comfortable, that's all that matters.'

"That's why it was a no-brainer

### U.K. TOP 10

1. CARL FROCH
2. AMIR KHAN
3. KELL BROOK
4. CARL FRAMPTON
5. GEORGE GROVES
6. TYSON FURY
7. SCOTT QUIGG
8. JAMES DEGALE
9. JAMIE MCDONNELL
10. PAUL BUTLER

**Six more (in alphabetical order):** Tony Bellew, Nathan Cleverly, Martin Murray, Billy Joe Saunders, Andy Lee, Matthew Macklin.
(Through fights of July 20, 2014)

Jason Quigley, pictured on the right fighting Bogdan Juratoni in the European Amateur Boxing Championships in June of last year, won his pro debut on a high-profile card in July.

VIKTOR DRACHEV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

for me to turn pro with Golden Boy. Oscar knows what it's like to get through the ropes himself as a boxer."

Quigley is based in Los Angeles but also trains in Carson City, in northern Nevada. "I'm more or less permanently based out here in the U.S.A. at the minute. I'll probably go home every now and then for a few weeks just to get back home and see my family and friends. It's great to be out here mixing with all the world-class fighters."

Quigley's promise became apparent last year. He won a silver medal as a middleweight at the World Amateur Championships in Kazakhstan last October.

"The season I had in 2013 was pretty amazing for me. I really set my mark out there and [turning pro] is what I've wanted to do since I was really young watching TV with my father. When Oscar came along with the contract, it was a pretty easy decision.

"Whoever has the titles at the time will be the guy I'm going after. All I care about is the belt. Whoever holds the title in 10 or 15 fights' time will be the guy I want. I'm just concentrating on one fight at a time and treating every fight as though it's for a world title.

"The support I have already is just unbelievable. Some of my fans have come from Donegal to Vegas to watch me in my first pro fight. It just shows you how big it could get for me in the future."

Jason's father, Conor, is his head coach. "There were a lot of managers, maybe five or six, getting in touch with us. Promotionally, Golden Boy and Top Rank were right in the mix and there were a few smaller ones, too," the elder Quigley said.

"Taking Jason away from the amateur game was massive because of the funding he was on. He was funded by Sky Sports Scholars and the ABA in Ireland and he had his own sponsors and his car sponsored. He was sitting in his comfort zone back at home and he had everything. To walk away from all that kind of stuff was massive.

"We hooked up with a managerial group and we hooked up with Golden Boy. We sat down and talked to them and we worked out what we were looking for and hoping for. We just wanted to keep Jason happy. It was a no-brainer from our point of view."

It will be an interesting ride with Quigley.

★

## AMIR KHAN

Amir Khan told me at press time (late July) that he expected to be back in the ring in December. No official opponent, though he mentioned Devon Alexander and Robert Guerrero. Could be in the U.K. or Dubai, he reckoned.

"December is a great time for me. It gives me a nice break and also gives me enough time to train if I get back in the gym for September. The first week or second week of December would be ideal." I'd like it to be in England, but there's a lot of talk that it may be in Dubai. I'm just going to let Al Haymon and the team, Golden Boy, give me a few options and I'll take it from there."

Khan seemed unconcerned about the recent battle lines which had been drawn up between promoters and the shifting sands.

"I'm in a great position, to be honest with you. I'm with Golden Boy and I'm also with Al Haymon. I'm in the middle. I've got the best of both teams. (Former Golden Boy CEO) Richard (Schaefer) is a good friend of mine and when they had that split, he went out of his way to call me. He said, 'You're a good friend of mine, Amir, and I just want to tell you I'm going to be leaving Golden Boy.' He said he just needs a break. Oscar also called me and said he wanted to take charge more of his company and do the best for his fighters. I respect both guys.

"They're good friends of mine and have helped me out a lot in my boxing career. I'm still with Golden Boy and I've got some big fights in the future. Oscar is doing his best to get me what I want."

Khan remains philosophical on "The Mayweather Question" but will continue to hunt the big 'uns.

"If the Mayweather fight happens, it happens. If it doesn't, it doesn't. It's one of those fights I wanted and everyone else wanted. I really believe the speed could have given him a lot of problems," he said.

"But for December we're looking at a few names, the likes of (Devon) Alexander, (Robert) Guerrero. (Andre) Berto has also been mentioned but we train together, so that would be quite hard. I like Berto, he's a good friend of mine. But I'm one of those guys; I'll never say no to a fight. I'll take whoever they decide to put me against."

Marcos Maidana's manager, Sebastian Contursi, told me in Las Vegas that they, too, were seeking a rematch with Khan after the scintillating contest they had in December 2010. It could be another barnburner.

"I'm in that league now where my name is being talked about alongside Floyd Mayweather, Manny Pacquiao, Juan Manuel Marquez and Timothy Bradley. These are fights I want. Manny Pacquiao is another name. What a great storyline that would make. Amir Khan fighting his old sparring partner and friend, Manny Pacquiao. Also, Freddie Roach used to train me, so there's a lot of history there.

"Manny Pacquiao is still the same fighter. I still have a lot of respect for him, he's a great fighter. But these are the fights I want."

Good attitude from Khan. His next half a dozen fights could all be thrillers. RING

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Gareth A Davies is boxing correspondent for *The Telegraph*, London.

Doug Fischer doesn't believe Canelo Alvarez's victory over Erislandy Lara was controversial.

# BEST OF DOUGIE'S MAILBAG

## EXCERPTS FROM THE **RINGTV.COM** EDITOR'S POPULAR COLUMN

By **Doug Fischer**

**Since 2001,** RingTV.com Editor Doug Fischer has held an ongoing dialogue – which occasionally becomes heated debate – with boxing fans from around the world in "Dougie's Mailbags."

Excerpts from Fischer's online column appear here. The following selections are from the July 11 and 14 editions of the Monday and Friday mailbag.

**VINCENT, from New York City, told Fischer that he had a difficult time seeing Canelo Alvarez win his split decision over Erislandy Lara on July 12 given the Mexican star's "sparse success landing punches anywhere other than the body." Vincent acknowledged that the fight was "close and competitive," scoring the 12-round bout 115-114 for Lara (which includes an even round). He believes Lara deserves a rematch with Alvarez but doesn't believe the classy Cuban boxer can win a decision under any circumstance due to "biased judging." He wondered how Fischer viewed the fight and asked if Alvarez owes Lara a rematch.**

**DOUGIE'S REPLY:** I scored seven rounds for Alvarez, giving him a 115-113 decision. As I scored the fight there were three rounds that I marked as "very close, could go the other way," so I'm not surprised that many fans, boxing insiders and members of the media scored the bout a draw or 115-113 for Lara or even 116-112 for Lara. I don't have a problem with a 114-114 scorecard or 115-113 tally for Lara.

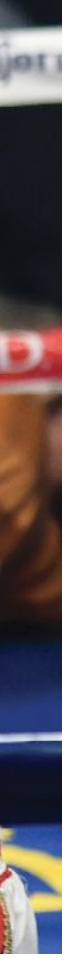
I do have a problem with Levi Martinez's tally of 117-111 for Alvarez because it gave the Mexican star the benefit in every competitive round (forget about close rounds). Martinez bent over backwards for Alvarez and I think his scorecard is the main reason for the outrage among many (but not the majority) of hardcore fans.

However, I don't personally see any controversy in Alvarez winning. He got the nod in a very close fight. I don't think that was a surprise outcome given his status in the sport and given his style against an often negative boxing style.

Regarding Lara's chances to get a fair shake in a rematch, I can see him winning a decision over Alvarez under different circumstances – such as different judges and a different fight location – but he will have to do more than he did on July 12.

I don't feel Alvarez owes any fighter anything, especially Lara, who was blessed by the boxing gods to be in the same time and division that includes a bona fide star young enough and bold

ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES



enough to agree to face him. If Lara was a top-rated junior welterweight or welterweight who called out Floyd Mayweather Jr. 10 years ago, "The Pretty Boy" would have laughed and then proudly claimed that he's never heard of him if members of the boxing press brought up the Cuban's name.

Boxers with Lara's style and limited fan appeal do not get many opportunities to take down one of the attractions and future superstars of the sport. To be honest – and I'm not saying this reality is a good thing or the right thing – they're lucky if they get one shot. Lara had his shot on July 12 and he came up short in a very close fight. I don't think Team Canelo or Golden Boy Promotions is going to give him another chance. Alvarez took a gamble in facing Lara, dodged a bullet on the scorecards, and now he's going to look to bigger and better matchups (i.e. Miguel Cotto).

Also, I don't understand why you have a difficult time seeing Alvarez winning the fight when you only scored it for Lara by ONE point (and you had an even round).

**AL, from Hong Kong by way of Manchester, England, asked Fischer if there's anything fans or the media can do about ridiculous scorecards, such as the 117-111 tally that Levi Martinez had for Alvarez against Lara. He proposed tracking judges that repeatedly turn in head-scratching scorecards in the hopes of "mapping out the patterns for scoring from each judge" and perhaps shaming "some repeat offenders into not continuing their nefarious ways."**

**DOUGIE'S REPLY:** There's a website that compiles the scores of professional boxing and MMA judges and measures their consistency called the Pod Index, podindex.org. Check it out.

THE RING magazine also recently announced that it would keep a watch out for habitually bad judges shortly after Gustavo Padilla somehow scored the Bernard Hopkins-Beibut Shumenov fight for Shumenov (114-113). Starting with the July 2014 issue, Editor Michael Rosenthal said that he's instituting a new feature called Poor Judge-ment, "a list of horrible scorecards that we'll continually update."

My guess is that Martinez will make the list.

Lara's co-manager Luis DeCubas asked the boxing media during the post-fight press conference to keep an eye on Martinez. DeCubas said Martinez was inconsistent with how he scores fights because he scored the controversial Shumenov-Gabriel Campillo rematch (which Shumy won via controversial split decision) for Campillo – the boxer in the matchup – by a 117-111 score; and he scored the Orlando Salido-Vasyl Lomachenko (won by Salido via split nod) for Loma by a 115-113 score.

While I understand DeCubas' frustration with Martinez's lopsided scorecard in favor of Alvarez and his perceived inconsistency in boxer-vs.-aggressive fighter matchups, I would argue that Martinez had the CORRECT scorecard for Shumenov-Campillo (which I scored 116-112 for Campy) and that Salido-Lomachenko was a close fight.

I would also argue that boxer-vs.-aggressor matchups come in many variations. Yes, Campillo was the boxer against Shumy, but he was also aggressive and busy! Campillo let his hands go in brilliant body-head combinations all night against Shumenov and from the middle rounds until the end of the fight he often walked to Shumenov (and brutally worked the big thug over, especially in the late rounds). And while Loma definitely employed a stick-and-move strategy vs. "Siri," he stayed in the pocket more than Lara and he definitely let his hands go more than the Cuban did against Alvarez.

**RIZ, from London, asked Fischer if Alvarez's victory over Lara would lead to a showdown with RING middleweight champion Miguel Cotto. Although he pointed out that Cotto is naturally smaller than Alvarez, Riz said he's intrigued by the matchup because he thinks Alvarez will be stronger at 160 pounds while the Puerto Rican star seems "rejuvenated" under Freddie Roach. Riz also asked Fischer where Lara goes next. He thinks the Cuban's best bet is to go up in weight to face middleweight standouts, such as Gennady Golovkin.**

**DOUGIE'S REPLY:** I don't think Lara should go to middleweight. Despite being taller than Canelo, he appeared smaller and weaker on fight night. I don't think the Cuban has the size or physical strength to deal with world-class middleweights (especially monsters like "GGG"). I think he should stay at 154 pounds, where he could assume the top spot once Alvarez officially moves to 160 pounds (and Mayweather retires). Who can he fight next? That's tricky. He's got to find someone notable who is just as desperate as he is (or more). The only guy I can think of who fits that description is IBF titleholder Carlos Molina, who has some unfinished business with Lara. Andy Lee might be willing to face Lara to get a shot at the interim WBA belt. There's also Ishe Smith and 36-year-old Joshua Clottey. A showdown with Demetrius Andrade would be interesting but the undefeated WBO beltholder's strong relationship with HBO could block that matchup.

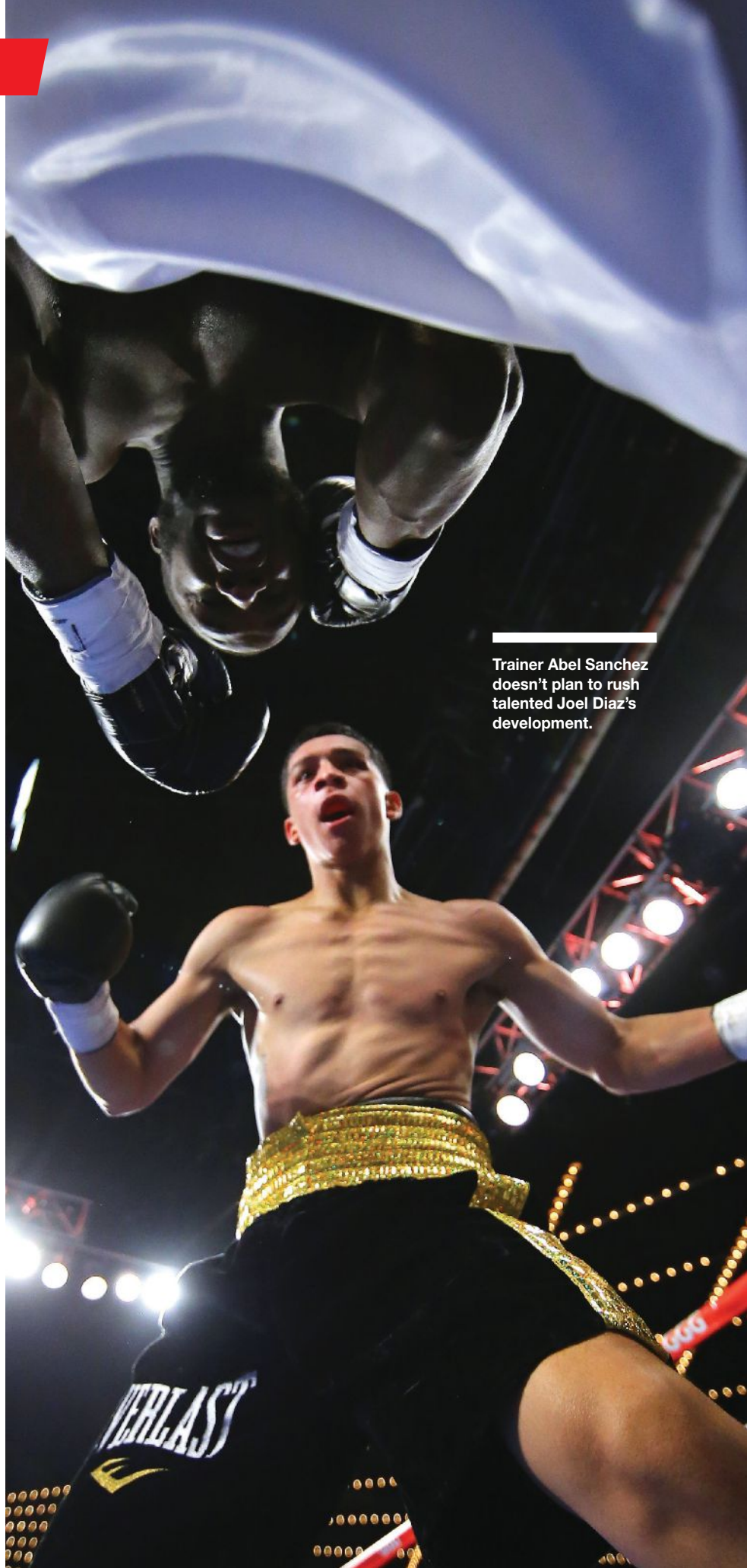
As for Alvarez, I can't imagine his team and Golden Boy Promotions not angling for a super-showdown with Cotto. If the young star wants to take back the Mexican holiday months of May and September from Mayweather for his own pay-per-view dates, he's going to need the veteran Puerto Rican star. Cotto-Canelo is the biggest PPV event that can be made outside of Mayweather-Pacquiao. I don't know who Alvarez faces next (if he fights a third time in 2014), but I think Cotto is his target for 2015.

# JOEL DIAZ JR.

## THE OTHER **JOEL DIAZ** IS BEGINNING TO TURN HEADS WITH HIS POWER AND ALL-AROUND ABILITY

By **Keith Idec**

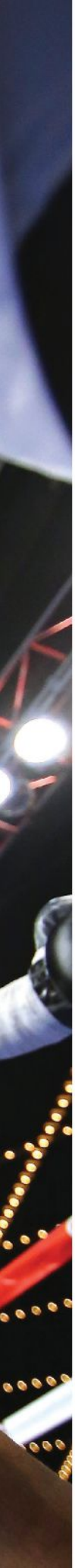
**THE ESSENTIALS**
**Age:** 22
**Weight class:** Junior lightweight
**Height:** 5 feet 8 inches
**Stance:** Orthodox
**Hometown:** Palmdale, Calif.
**Record:** 16-0 (12 KOs)
**Biggest strengths:** Diaz's left hook is his most effective punch and should make him a lightweight worth watching once he inevitably moves up to 135 pounds ★ Firmly committed to body punching, a valuable skill he is mastering under the watchful eye of gym-mate Gennady Golovkin ★ Trainer Abel Sanchez is among boxing's best and is taking a measured approach to Diaz's development.
**Biggest question marks:** Needs to correct kinks in his footwork before he'll be able to properly utilize his natural power ★ Must face more formidable opponents in developmental bouts before taking on elite opponents in the junior lightweight and/or lightweight divisions. ★




Trainer Abel Sanchez doesn't plan to rush talented Joel Diaz's development.

**No, Joel Diaz Jr.** cannot help set up sparring against Timothy Bradley.

That's a message the undefeated junior lightweight prospect has relayed to numerous boxing people



on Facebook who've mistaken him for Bradley's trainer, retired Southern California fighter Joel Diaz.

"They always apologize," said a laughing Diaz, who is no relation to the respected trainer. "There's no need to apologize. People mess up sometimes, but once they realize they made a mistake, they start following my career. I've gotten a few fans from not being Timothy Bradley's trainer, so that's good."

If the plan designed by Diaz, trainer Abel Sanchez and co-promoters Lou DiBella and Jean Pascal comes to fruition, the Palmdale, California, native will become well known in boxing because of what he does in the ring, not what he doesn't do in the corner.

"Everybody likes knockouts," said Diaz, 22. "I would like for people to look at me like a power guy – set them up and knock them out with that power punch."

Diaz was 16-0 and had recorded 12 knockouts at press time for this issue. Though seemingly on a fast track toward a world title shot at 130 pounds, Diaz and Sanchez are preaching patience as he hones his skills in the California mountain resort of Big Bear Lake, where Diaz all but permanently resides. Sanchez would prefer waiting five or six more fights, assuming Diaz keeps winning, before having him face any top opposition in his division.

"Now that he's signed with Pascal and DiBella, I hope they give him some development fights before wanting to put him in a title fight," said Sanchez. "I really want to see that. I would like him to develop a little bit more, so that when we get there, we're ready to play with the big boys."

Diaz went 85-10 during his 10-year amateur career, yet it wasn't until Sanchez started training him that he feels he began to realize his potential. On the advice of manager Mike Criscio, Diaz hired Sanchez following his seventh pro fight, a seventh-round technical knockout victory over Guy Robb (then 7-0, 3 KOs) in January 2012. Diaz dropped Robb twice, but also suffered a second-round knockdown in a bout broadcast by Showtime as part of its "ShoBox: The New Generation" series.

"He's developing well," Sanchez said. "He's a kid that didn't have that extensive of an amateur career at a higher level, so we've been working on his style and trying to define where he fits best. But he's a hard worker. He listens. He's on time. He's in the gym all the time. He lives here.

And living there has definitely afforded Diaz some insight into what it takes to reach the championship level. One of the biggest benefits of working with his current team has been the friendship he has established with middleweight knockout artist Gennady Golovkin, whom Sanchez also trains. Among other things, Golovkin has tutored Diaz on body-punching technique and the value of ripping opponents downstairs while chasing knockouts.

"We've actually been working on the left hook to the body, to the liver – Triple-G style," Diaz said. "He likes killing them with those body shots. He's been giving me tips on how to do it, how to place it, how to not lean forward too much. I want to give Coach Abel credit, too. He's been teaching me to not lean forward too much, where to place the left hook to the liver, so that they go down and never get up."

Being taken under the wing of Kazakhstan's Golovkin, a genuinely humble man who has evolved into one of boxing's biggest stars the past two years, has also been good for Diaz in other ways.

"This guy is really, really hungry," Diaz said. "He's very motivated and he gives 110 percent to what he does. That's what motivates me, to see that he loves the sport so much. And I've always been humble and just chill. To see Gennady Golovkin become world champion and stay humble as well, I'm just learning from his craft. Whatever he could teach me, I'm all ears." RING

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Keith Idec covers boxing for The Record, of Woodland Park, N.J. He can be reached on Twitter @Idecboxing.

# 3 MORE TO WATCH

## KARL DARGAN
### LIGHTWEIGHT

A highly accomplished amateur, Philadelphia's Dargan (16-0, 8 KOs) finally has started showing signs of realizing his vast potential at the age of 29. He is trained by Naazim Richardson, a straight shooter most known for his work with Bernard Hopkins. Richardson believes Dargan's improved focus and conditioning will allow promoter Main Events to put him in more challenging 10-round fights in the coming months.

## ERICKSON LUBIN
### WELTERWEIGHT

Backed by Mike Tyson's promotional company, Lubin (6-0, 5 KOs) has enjoyed extensive television exposure very early in his career. The 18-year-old southpaw has intriguing power, yet showed some diversity while going the distance in his most recent fight – an eight-round unanimous-decision defeat of Mexico's Noe Bolanos on July 10 in Miami.

## DOMINIC WADE
### MIDDLEWEIGHT

Powerful manager Al Haymon is guiding his career and predictably took a cautious approach to matching the Largo, Maryland, native since he turned pro in March 2009. The skilled, 24-year-old Wade (16-0, 11 KOs) showed patience and poise while facing a higher level of opposition in his last fight, a 10-round unanimous decision win against Nick Brinson on June 27 in Las Vegas.

# OUR FACES: TOUGHENED TARGETS

## RESEARCHERS ASSERT THAT FACIAL BONE STRUCTURE EVOLVED TO TAKE A PUNCH

By **Scott LaFee**

**We're all familiar with the look** of a battered and beaten boxer. But beneath the bruises and the blood, there is another face even more familiar: our own.

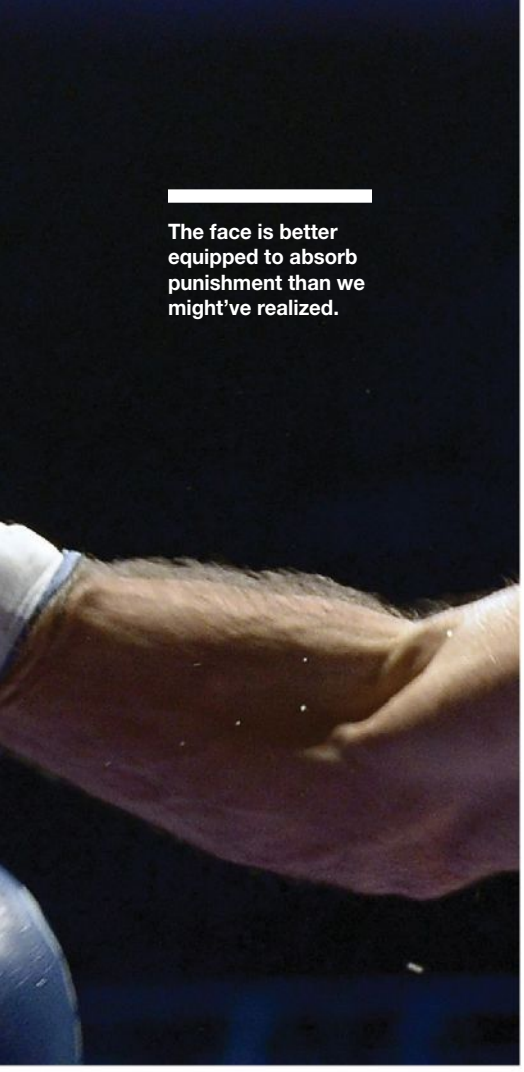
Or at least that's the argument of a pair of researchers writing recently in the journal Biological Reviews. David Carrier, a biologist at the University of Utah, and Michael H. Morgan, a physician with the university's School of Medicine, assert that the modern human face is the evolutionary result, in part, of adapting to take a punch.

"When modern humans fight hand to hand, the face is usually the primary target," wrote the researchers. "What we found was that the bones that suffer the highest rates of fracture in fights are the same parts of the skull that exhibited the greatest increase in robusticity during the evolution of basal hominins (an evolutionary classification that includes humans and their early ancestors)."

As evidence, they point to Australopithecus, an extinct genus of hominids that sported mugs dominated by wide, flat and remarkably sturdy cheekbones. Conventional wisdom has long posited that their skull shape was due to their diet, which largely consisted of heavy roughage and hard stuff like seeds and nuts. Such foods would require an anvil-like skull and jaw to successfully chew and crunch.

But Carrier and Morgan contend

JUAN MABROMATA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



The face is better equipped to absorb punishment than we might've realized.

there's more here than meets the eye. Or rather, there's more here because australopith fists frequently met other australopiths' eyes. Their world, dating back roughly four million years, was a pretty violent place, a constant fight for food, mates and survival.

Descended from earlier tree-dwelling creatures, Australopithecus was heavier and more muscular. It had developed hands that could form fists, perfect for using as a sort of club. But even as australopiths were evolving to become better fist fighters, said the researchers, the bones of their faces were getting selectively bigger, thicker and stronger to fully absorb those blows.

"Four million years ago, if you broke your jaw, it was probably a fatal injury," Carrier told the BBC. "You wouldn't be able to chew food. You'd just starve to death."

This isn't the first time Carrier and Morgan have ventured an inadvertent evolutionary explanation for aspects of the fight game. In 2012, they published a paper in the *Journal of Experimental Biology* that suggested the proportions of the human hand were shaped as much by the need to make a fist and punch somebody as by, say, the need to make and use tools.

Compared to other apes, human palms and fingers are shorter, but our thumbs are longer, stronger and more mobile. These traits, according to Carrier and Morgan, contribute to a stronger clenched fist, one in which the thumb wraps over the index and middle fingers. The fingertips are cushioned against the palm and the first two fingers supported by the thumb and thumb pad. Thus configured, the impactive force of a thrown punch is transferred back into the palm, wrist and forearm with less risk of damage to the delicate fingers.

Both papers are indisputably speculative. It's hard to conclusively prove anything related to evolution because so many factors, known and unknown, can be influential. The modern human hand is better at throwing a punch than a gorilla's (not that a gorilla ever needs to), but it's still not perfectly designed for the task. The bones in the smaller fingers of the human hand, for example, have a tendency to crack when a hard punch is disadvantageously landed – the so-called "boxer's fracture." It's one reason boxers wear gloves.

But there is one thing that can be said without much debate about Carrier and Morgan's latest findings regarding the shape of skulls and faces: They found that the "robusticity" of the bones in our skull was especially distinct between males and females.

"In other words," said Carrier, "male and female faces are different because the parts of the skull that break in fights are bigger in males."

Well, thank god for that because otherwise it might mean our mothers and sisters, wives and girlfriends might look a lot like Mike Tyson.

Kaliesha West (left) and Ava Knight are both boxers and advocates.

# REVOLUTION

## KALIESHA WEST AND AVA KNIGHT LEAD THE EFFORT TO PROCURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEMALE BOXERS

By **Thomas Gerbasi**

**Kaliesha West and Ava Knight** already spent 18 rounds in the ring together over the course of two title bouts in 2008 and 2011. Now they're engaged in a different fight against a common foe: a boxing establishment that has ignored them and women's boxing for too long.

And it has been a beautiful thing to see. Through the power of social media, the two Californians have been able to do what female fighters from the past couldn't, which is to get their message out to the fans, the media, the power brokers in the industry and anyone else who will listen.

That message is clear: The ladies want the opportunities men have received for decades. They believe the opportunities, particularly if that means they fight on U.S. TV, will lead to the rewards all boxers crave – respect and fair paydays.

The apathy those in the business have toward women's boxing generally goes unnoticed because no one talks about it. West, no shrinking violet, had no qualms about letting the world in on the secret, which began with an open letter on the Right Cross Entertainment website in 2009.

"Give women in boxing the same opportunity in this land of opportunity that you give to men in boxing," West wrote. "Treat women boxers as equals. ... There are more great women fighters out there that are training every day, draining our bodies, and [we] deserve to be in the same position as a top professional male fighter when we retire."

The letter largely fell on deaf ears, but it did gain her an ally in Knight.

"We were talking about our similar struggle and we had something to relate to each other with even though we fought each other," said West, who eventually found a better way to reach the masses.

In September of last year, she uploaded a scathing 4-minute, 16-second video rant to YouTube after an image was posted of the $40 million check Floyd Mayweather Jr. received for his fight against Canelo Alvarez.

"I dedicated my life to this sport," said West. "I was a varsity cross-country runner, I was an honor-roll student, and there were so many different things in my life that I was able to succeed in, but I dedicated my heart, soul and body to boxing. And it can't even take care of me. So seeing that, it pissed me off."

The video received only 10,000-plus views, but the message got out loud and clear over Twitter, with the likes of Mike Tyson, Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield all lending their support.

Next it was time for Knight, currently No. 5 on THE RING's pound for pound list, to take her case to the people as she looked to be freed from her contract with Mexico's Promociones del Pueblo.

"At the time, it (fighting in Mexico) was the only thing doing something for me," said Knight, who used the hashtag #freeava to describe her plight. "As time went on, we started to see that Mexico was the wrong way to go. I was getting fights, but at the end of the tunnel I was looking at being more of an opponent. I became the biggest target in Mexico. So whenever I went there, the fans who love boxing loved me, but I was the villain. And trying to fight like that was hard, so I eventually told them I'm done. I want a chance to fight in America."

THE RING spoke to Oswaldo Kuchle of Promociones del Pueblo, who said his company offered Knight two fights in the last six months for the same money she made when she was WBC champion, but those offers were turned down. As for her request to be released from her contract, Kuchle said he is more than willing to work with her team to allow Knight to reach her goal of fighting in the United States again.

That's an issue for the lawyers to sort out. In the meantime, Knight will continue to make her feelings known.

"I'm gonna sit on the front of the bus on this one and make sure that I'm heard," she said. "Once they took girls off TV, that was it. We were no longer in existence. But now that we have social media, people can still keep an eye out and look for us. It's helped out a lot."

As for West, she was scheduled at press time to fight Dayana Cordero on Aug. 15 in Quebec. It's her first bout in nearly two years and she's thrilled about it, but she knows that the fight for herself and her peers isn't over. In fact, the revolution has just begun.

"I just want to pave a sweeter path," she said. "That's my goal."

# WOMEN'S TOP 10

**1. CECILIA BRAEKHUS**
**Norway • 25-0 (7 KOs)**
Welterweight

**2. JELENA MRDJENOVICH**
**Canada • 32-9-1 (16 KOS)**
Featherweight

**3. YESICA YOLANDA BOPP**
**Argentina • 27-1 (12 KOs),**
Flyweight

**4. JESSICA CHAVEZ**
**Mexico • 20-3-3 (4 KOs)**
Junior flyweight

**5. AVA KNIGHT**
**U.S. • 12-2-3 (5 KOs)**
Junior flyweight

**6. DIANA PRAZAK**
**Australia • 13-2 (9 KOs)**
Junior lightweight

**7. ERICA ANABELLA FARIAS**
**Argentina • 19-1 (9 KOs)**
Lightweight

**8. MARCELA ELIANA ACUNA**
**Argentina • 41-6-1 (18 KOs)**
Junior featherweight

**9. DELFINE PERSOON**
**Belgium • 29-1 (13 KOs)**
Lightweight

**10. MELISSA HERNANDEZ**
**U.S. • 19-5-3 (6 KOs)**
Featherweight

Through fights of July 20, 2014

# WHAT A MESS

## USA BOXING IS IN A REBUILDING MODE WITH THE OLYMPICS ONLY TWO YEARS AWAY

**By Joseph Santoliquito**

There has been more action in the offices of USA Boxing than in its gym in Colorado Springs, Colo. (pictured).

**Mike Martino and John Brown** care about the sorry condition of USA Boxing as the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro approach. They don't seem to have much company.

Martino took over as interim executive director of USA Boxing after predecessor Anthony Bartkowski was fired in late March by then-President Dr. Charles Butler. Two weeks later, Butler resigned. Brown took over as president in May. And, as if there hadn't been enough upheaval, head coach Pedro Roque – once the head of the Cuban national team – quit on June 20.

That leaves Martino and Brown with no coach, financial instability, a thin talent pool and the need to find a full-time executive director.

"We're a little less than two years to the Olympics and we have some major challenges ahead of us," Martino said. "Our priorities are to stabilize our leadership, and that means naming a new [executive director], amend some bylaws, get closer oversight of the national office and make USA Boxing more accountable.

"The first priority is the national recruitment of an executive director and devising a strategic plan to prepare for Rio in 2016. We also need board positions filled. We're supposed to have a 10-member staff. We currently have seven."

In other words, Martino and Brown – and whoever is hired as executive director – have been charged with fixing problems that have existed for years.

"We're mainly trying to correct some of the mistakes of the past because for so many years we had non-boxing people running boxing, who didn't know the sport or even care about it," Brown said. "We're trying to correct that damage that's been done over the years. The shame of it is we can't do what we'd like to do because there are problems that are so deep and complicated. That is frustrating.

Claressa Shields was the only American to return from the 2012 Olympics with a gold medal.

"We're getting there, though. When we arrived, USA Boxing was at about a '2' on a scale of 1 to 10. I think we have it to about a '5' right now. Our infrastructure is all screwed up and we're trying to untangle it. It's becoming almost impossible for our

boxers to compete because they still have to make a living because of a lack of funding. Until we can fix that, it's going to continue to be hard for us to compete."

Clouding USA Boxing's future even more is the edict from the Amateur International Boxing Association allowing pros to compete.

In the past, a fighter became eligible for the Olympics by winning the open boxing tournament of his respective nation's boxing governing body (USA Boxing in the United States). Now, two more tiers have been added: The World Series of Boxing and something that will be introduced in late-2014 called AIBA Pro Boxing. This will allow fighters with no more than 20 pro bouts to be eligible for the 2016 Games.

There is no way to determine whether U.S. professionals and their handlers, who are focused on building the fighters' records and earning power, will be interested in the Olympics.

"Even if we didn't undergo all the big changes, our organization would still be faced with the huge challenge with how we deal with pros," Martino said. "Pro boxing in the U.S. and across the world is not consistent with AIBA's goals. It remains to be seen how the pros will assimilate to the Olympics. There is a possibility of a lot of entanglements, with different promoters allowing their fighters to compete.

"Do you think a promoter who has a hot kid that's 9-0, 10-0 is going to risk allowing him to jeopardize his record and marketability in the Olympics? … How it will be accepted in the U.S. remains a big question mark."

USA Boxing is also faced with a catch-22. Funding is crucial to success, but, as per the practices of the U.S. Olympic Committee, you have to succeed to get funding. The men have not been successful but the women have, led by 2012 gold medalist Claressa Shields.

"It's about medals and the USOC understands that; they reward and compensate those sports that are being successful," Martino said. "We're confident that our women will do well in Rio. Our women will be podium-ready. And I think [the men] will too. We feel confident we're moving forward with our sport. Our sport is volunteer driven and our funding comes from personal coaches, the gyms. It's the backbone of our organization.

"We do actually get some funding from fighters like Floyd Mayweather. And I'd have to say the king is Evander Holyfield. He put his money where his mouth is. After the 2012 Olympics, we had people coming out of the woodwork [who said they're] willing to help us. That was two years ago and no one has stepped forward."

"[But] I really do feel that a lot of big-time promoters in this country would be willing to help us out if we did ask them."

Brown wouldn't characterize this as a scary time for USA Boxing, just a very trying time. "This is a time for hope," he said. "New things are being tried. We're getting there."

USA Boxing could take an encouraging step soon: Eddie Weichers, the longtime boxing coach at the U.S. Air Force Academy, will likely become the new USA Boxing coach, according to Brown. Weichers led the Falcons to 19 national collegiate boxing championships and is based in Colorado Springs, Colorado, the training headquarters of the U.S. Olympic team.

"That would be a good move to start," Brown said. "A lot of people like Eddie have been frustrated for years over what's gone on with USA Boxing." RING

INSET: SCOTT HEAVEY/GETTY IMAGES; JUSTIN EDMONDS/GETTY IMAGES

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# RINGSIDE REPORTS

BY NORM FRAUENHEIM

## ROBERT GUERRERO UD 12 YOSHIHIRO KAMEGAI

**Date:** June 21
**Site:** StubHub Center, Carson, Calif.
**Division:** Welterweight
**Weights:** Guerrero 146 pounds, Kamegai 146.7
**Ring rating (going into fight):** Guerrero No. 8, Kamegai not rated
**Network:** Showtime

★ Fan-friendly is not always career-friendly, but Robert Guerrero decided to please the customers first and worry about his well-being later by wading into a brawl that earned him cheers and left him with a bloodied, bruised left eye.

It might have been a high price for a victory that figured to be his anyway. In Guerrero's first fight since his loss to Floyd Mayweather Jr. 13 months earlier, little-known Japanese welterweight Yoshihiro Kamegai appeared to be an initial move toward another shot at a 147-pound title.

Take the win and move on. But Guerrero took a lot of punishment in taking a 117-111, 117-111, 116-112 victory on the scorecards.

"I know I could have made the fight easier," Guerrero (32-2-1, 18 KOs) said after emerging from a bout that figures to be a Boxing Writers Association of America nominee for Fight of the Year.

From the beginning, Kamegai (24-2-1, 21 KOs) stood in front of Guerrero, inviting him to indulge in punishing exchanges. Guerrero couldn't resist.

"I fell into that banging again, and that's something I've got to work on," Guerrero said as he spoke to ringside reporters with the damaged eye hidden behind

STEPHEN DUNN/GETTY IMAGES

**Robert Guerrero (right) landed a lot of hard punches but took many in return in a wild brawl against Yoshihiro Kamegai.**

sunglasses. "I wanted to box on the outside, but I have a habit of banging away and exchanging."

At 31, the habit can prove dangerous. Kamegai cut Guerrero above his left eye with a right uppercut in the seventh round. During the successive rounds, the eyelid grew into a grotesque, purple hematoma about the size of a grape. Yet, the injury seemed to energize the crowd and, in turn, Guerrero, whose quicker hands scored repeatedly in the final rounds.

"It was a rough one," Guerrero said. "I said I couldn't get caught in his style, but I did. That's the type of guy I am. I'll stay there and fight, no matter what type of guy he is, no matter how hard he hits.

"He's a tough guy. The fans, they love it. I like to give the fans what they want, so I stood there and banged with him. I'm in good shape. I didn't get tired at all."

If anything, it looked as if Guerrero and Kamegai wanted to continue. At the closing bell, they embraced and smiled at each other, almost as if to say, "How about a 13th round?"

A day or two later, however, the real question for Guerrero had to be, "Who's next?" Amir Khan has been mentioned for a possible bout in December. Devon Alexander's name was dropped. In a post-fight interview in the middle of the ring, Showtime's Jim Gray asked Guerrero about Keith Thurman.

"Keith Urban," Guerrero answered in a quick-witted counter. He'd have an easier time with Urban than Thurman but he'd probably end up in a brawl anyway.

# VASYL LOMACHENKO MD 12 GARY RUSSELL JR.

**Date:** June 21
**Site:** StubHub Center, Carson, Calif.
**Division:** Featherweight
**Weights:** Lomachenko 125.4 pounds, Russell 125.4
**Ring rating (going into fight):** Lomachenko No. 10, Russell not rated
**Network:** Showtime

**Vasyl Lomachenko (right) proved to be better than Gary Russell Jr.**

★ Vasyl Lomachenko never planned on a long apprenticeship. Fact is, it lasted one fight longer than even he envisioned. But the trip from a second Olympic gold to a sanctioning body title was accomplished with bold mastery of skill and a mature resilience that allowed him to bypass the prospect stage altogether.

Expect tough lessons as Lomachenko's career continues to unfold. The good news is that he does. If the Ukrainian (2-1, 1 KO) hadn't, he might not have been so effective against Gary Russell Jr. (24-1, 14 KOs) in a bout that was a test of how he would come back from a bruising loss in March to Orlando Salido.

Salido roughed him up in Lomachenko's initiation to the pro ranks. Salido tossed aside all pretense and some of the rulebook. He failed to make weight. Then, he put on 20 pounds after the weigh-in and used every additional pound to grind out a message that said the pro game wasn't about medals and computer scoring. It's about enduring and learning, an experience that turns young prospects into former prospects.

At 26, Lomachenko is older and wiser than the teenagers who skip the Olympics for the signing bonus that comes with a contract and premature entry to the pros. Lomachenko took the Salido experience for what it was: a lesson.

"With Orlando Salido, I got more experience, more than if I would be fighting just regular level guys for two years," Lomachenko told RingTV.com.

In terms of a pro record, Russell had more experience. Before the opening bell, he was unbeaten in 24 bouts. According to boxrec.com, Lomachenko was 1-1, although Fight Fax has included six victories with the World Series of Boxing in his pro record. But there was no confusion about who they had fought. Russell had never faced anyone as feared as Salido. Within one bout, Lomachenko learned more than Russell had in 24.

At the heart of Lomachenko's tactical plan was a body attack, which he stubbornly pursued and augmented with combinations to the head that had Russell in trouble in the fifth, seventh and 10th rounds. On two scorecards, Lomachenko won comfortably, 116-112 on each. On the third, however, it was 114-114 according to a judge who must have been blinded by Russell's hand speed. It was there, but lacking in impact.

"It was a fair decision," Russell told reporters at ringside.

It was also a testament to Lomachenko's chance at enduring stardom. Marvin Sonsona, Nicholas Walters and Evgeny Gradovich are possibilities for the new WBO 126-pound titleholder's next fight. Meanwhile, promoter Bob Arum is talking about a featherweight tournament. If it happens, Arum will have a lot to sell in a Lomachenko, whose stardom is just emerging.

LOMACHENKO: STEPHEN DUNN/GETTY IMAGES

## TERENCE CRAWFORD KO 9 YURIORKIS GAMBOA

**Date:** June 28
**Site:** CenturyLink Center, Omaha, Neb.
**Division:** Lightweight
**Weights:** Crawford 134.8 pounds, Gamboa 134.4
**Ring rating (going into fight):** Crawford No. 2, Gamboa not rated
**Network:** HBO

★ Terence Crawford warned Yuriorkis Gamboa. Wrong fighter and wrong city, Crawford told him when they agreed to fight. Gamboa probably wishes he had listened to the advice. For one night, Crawford looked like another sage in a city already known for one. Investment guru Warren Buffett is called the Oracle of Omaha because he delivers.

So, too, does Crawford.

He is the right fighter and his hometown was the right city for a business looking for new faces and new customers. Boxing might have created a few fans in the lively crowd of 10,943, most of whom probably weren't around 42 years ago for Omaha's last major fight – Joe Frazier's stoppage of Nebraska heavyweight Ron Stander in 1972.

In Crawford's skillful knockout of Gamboa, there were dramatic moments that might compel some in the crowd to buy the next pay-per-view fight, especially if it includes Crawford, who according to promoter Bob Arum landed on Manny Pacquiao's short list.

"Down the road ... it's very possible that a year from now we put him in with Pacquaio," Arum told ESPN after watching the HBO telecast while in rehab from knee surgery. "That would be a huge fight and a great fight. If you really think you have a great fighter with superstar qualities, you move him that way. You don't protect him."

Crawford (24-0, 17 KOs), who expected to return to Omaha in November, perhaps against Ray Beltran, has never been protected. He's from the Midwest, which is known for fighters who are sparring partners or represent a good tune-up for an ex-champ coming back from a loss. Crawford has had to prove himself at every turn since he lost in the final of the 2006 National Golden Gloves in Omaha.

Proof that he wasn't just another Midwestern fighter was evident last year and again in March when he beat Ricky Burns in Scotland for the WBO's 135-pound title. His victory over Gamboa (23-1, 16 KOs) was an extension of what he did against Burns and more. It was a step toward imminent stardom.

Against the smaller Gamboa, he had to think his way out of early adversity. The Cuban's hand speed and footwork gave Crawford fits throughout the first four rounds.

"I was warming up, getting used to his style," said Crawford, whose cornerman, Brian McIntyre, told him he could catch Gamboa with power shots when he stepped inside.

In the fifth, the big punches landed. A right-left combo floored Gamboa, a former featherweight champion who was coming off a long layoff and fighting at lightweight for only the second time. In a punishing eighth, a counter-right put Gamboa on one knee. In the ninth, Gamboa rallied and staggered Crawford. But Crawford immediately recovered, knocking down Gamboa twice, first with a left and then a right uppercut.

At 2:53 of the round, the fight was over and a new stage in Crawford's career was beginning.

**Terence Crawford and his team had reason to smile on June 28.**

## DEVON ALEXANDER
UD 10
## JESUS SOTO KARASS
June 21, StubHub Center, Carson, Calif. (Showtime)

★ Devon Alexander is fighting to regain promise once suggested in a nickname not heard much anymore. He was "The Great," a modern Alexander. It hasn't been easy. Shawn Porter and Timothy Bradley made sure of that.

But history isn't made without adversity. Alexander started down that road with a victory over Jesus Soto Karass, a competent gatekeeper and a test of Alexander's ability to overcome losses to Porter and Bradley.

Alexander (26-2, 14 KOs) restored his welterweight credibility and perhaps confidence against Soto Karass (28-10-3, 18 KOs). His quickness and an offense that hasn't always been apparent were decisive in a 99-91, 97-93, 99-91 victory.

"Sometimes I look good, sometimes I don't," Alexander said in a forthright self-appraisal. "But I'm a good fighter with skills. I'm gonna be the best one day. I promise you."

## NO. 5 CHAD DAWSON
KO 1
## GEORGE BLADES
June 21, StubHub Center, Carson, Calif. (Showtime)

★ Chad Dawson was overweight. George Blades was overmatched.

Other than that, it was hard to judge Dawson's first fight in a year since suffering successive losses to Andre Ward and Adonis Stevenson, both by knockout.

The handpicked Blades, now 2-4 in six fights over the last seven years, did his job. He offered no resistance and suffered two knockdowns in a bout that ended at 2:35 of the first round.

Dawson (32-3, 18 KOs) knocked out Blades (23-6, 16 KOs) but none of the skepticism about whether he can get back to the top of the light heavyweight division. He couldn't even make 175 pounds. At the weigh-in he was 182.8. He was at 202 at the opening bell.

"I don't have anything to prove to anybody," Dawson said before a bout that, sure enough, proved nothing.

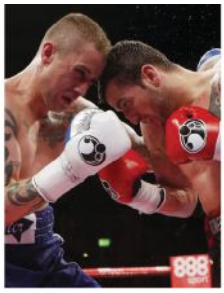
## ERROL SPENCE JR.
UD 10
## RONALD CRUZ
June 27, Hard Rock Cafe and Casino, Las Vegas (Showtime)

★ An essential step in Errol Spence Jr.'s apprenticeship is complete. Going the distance is a requirement. Spence, a 2012 Olympian from DeSoto, Texas, did so with ease, scoring a 10-round shutout of Ronald Cruz.

"I proved I can go 10 rounds at a fast pace," said Spence (13-0, 10 KOs) after winning 100-90 on all three cards over Cruz (20-4, 15 KOs), who was coming off a loss to veteran Kermit Cintron.

Spence, a left-hander who had never gone beyond eight rounds, looked strong during the last two stanzas with a good left hook and jab against Cruz, who sustained a cut over his right eye in the sixth.

"By early next year," Spence said, "I'll be a contender and fighting some top-quality names like Shawn Porter."



## DEJAN ZLATICANIN
SD 12 **NO.4**
## RICKY BURNS
June 27, Glasgow, Scotland (SkySports)

★ Ricky Burns was seeking a quick route back to a lightweight title. Along the way, however, there was a trap named Dejan Zlaticanin, who scored a knockdown in the opening seconds with a left and then held on for an upset that left Burns with more questions than hope.

"Devastated" is how Burns promoter Eddie Hearn described the Scotsman, who lost to Terence Crawford in March.

Burns (36-4-1, 11 KOs) rallied late but it was not enough. Zlaticanin (19-0, 13 KOs), of Montenegro, won 115-113 on two cards while the third favored Burns, 115-113.

The victory was Zlaticanin's introduction to a bigger audience; he fought outside the Balkans for the first time. It also may have propelled him to a title shot.

"Before the fight, I became the father of a beautiful girl, Sofia," he said. "She gave me the power to break Ricky."

And break into the world-class ranks.

## NO. 3 RANCES BARTHELEMY
UD 12 **NO. 7**
## ARGENIS MENDEZ
July 10, Miami (Fox Sports 1)

★ In what was more of a mandatory remake than a rematch, Rances Barthelemy got what could have been his the first time around.

Barthelemy beat Argenis Mendez to finally take ownership of the International Boxing Federation's junior lightweight title in a bout ordered after their first encounter was ruled a no-contest. On Jan. 3, Barthelemy appeared to be the new champ with a second-round stoppage in Minneapolis. Mendez had been counted out. However, it was determined that Barthelemy's punches were thrown after the bell.

About six months later, Barthelemy (20-0, 12 KOs) ended the controversy. He rocked Mendez (21-3-1, 11 KOs) early, coasted through the middle rounds and then wobbled his sluggish foe with counters. Not even two point deductions for low blows in the ninth and 10th rounds endangered Barthelemy's lead on the cards. He won 115-111 on all three.

## NO. 2 ABNER MARES UD 10 JONATHAN OQUENDO

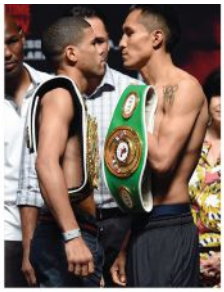
July 12, MGM Grand, Las Vegas (Showtime)

★ He said he felt rusty. Also, sluggish. In the end, Abner Mares felt like a winner again.

That's all that mattered for Mares, who beat Jonathan Oquendo after a long stretch of no fights and only haunting questions about the way Jhonny Gonzalez ended his featherweight reign within one round in August 2013.

"I want my rematch with Gonzalez," said Mares (27-1-1, 14 KOs) after surviving a cut over his left eye to win a 98-92, 96-94, 98-92 decision over Oquendo (24-4, 16 KOs). "I want any featherweight. I'm back."

He's back with a different trainer, Virgil Hunter, who tempered his aggressiveness. Mares was cautious, because of blood from the cut and perhaps a burden of doubt that had collected since Gonzalez. Time will heal the cut. Only a rematch can end the doubt.



## FRANCISCO VARGAS TKO 3 JUAN MANUEL LOPEZ

July 12, MGM Grand, Las Vegas (Showtime)

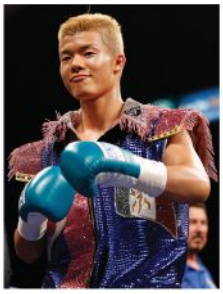
★ Hello, Francisco Vargas. Goodbye, Juan Manuel Lopez.

Vargas, an agile and explosive 29-year-old from Mexico City, introduced himself as a junior lightweight contender by overwhelming Lopez during a three-round blowout that pushed the former two-division titleholder out of the championship mix and maybe into retirement.

"I'm ready for anyone at 130," said Vargas (20-0-1, 14 KOs), a Joel De La Hoya-managed fighter who in the third round scored a vicious knockdown that prompted Lopez's corner to call it a day before the start of the fourth.

A week after the stoppage, Lopez (34-4, 31 KOs) wasn't sure whether he would continue his career.

"I'm a warrior and I would have fought to the end," said Lopez. "I really don't know if I want to retire, but I will talk to my promoters and see what we decide."



## NO. 8 TOMOKI KAMEDA KO 7 PUNGLUANG SOR SINGYU

July 12, MGM Grand, Las Vegas (Showtime)

★ Banned in Japan, Tomoki Kameda was welcomed in the United States with a victory that got the show rocking on the Canelo Alvarez-Erislandy Lara card.

Kameda (30-0, 19 KOs) has been unable to fight at home since the Japanese commission suspended his family's Tokyo gym for causing trouble after brother Daiki Kameda's loss to Liborio Solis in December. But he looked comfortable in Vegas with a seventh-round stoppage of Pungluang Sor Singyu (46-3, 31KOs).

Kameda, the WBO's bantamweight champ, landed a paralyzing left to the liver in the seventh round. Sor Singyu seemed to freeze for a split second and then collapsed as though he had been shot. The Thai fighter was cut above one eye. Blood and anguish covered his face. It was over. One look at Sor Singyu and Russell Mora ended the fight at 1:35 of the round.

What's next for Kameda? He signed with Al Haymon, which means he'll probably be a Vegas regular.

## MAURICIO HERRERA MD 12 JOHAN PEREZ

July 12, MGM Grand, Las Vegas (Showtime)

★ Mauricio Herrera just wanted to forget a controversial loss to Danny Garcia. He could only move beyond that one and stay in the junior welterweight's championship mix with a victory. But it wasn't easy.

Johan Perez, a lanky Venezuelan, was tougher than expected. Then the task was complicated by a respiratory infection that almost forced Herrera to withdraw from the important comeback bout.

"I had a fever," Herrera (21-4, 7 KOs) told reporters a week after beating Perez (19-2-1, 13 KOs). "I had no energy."

But he had to have the victory and he got it, scoring consistently with an effective jab for a majority decision – 116-112 on two cards and 114-114 on the third.

"I graduated to the next level," said Herrera, who wore a cap and gown after the victory. "I'm ready for anybody. I'll go after Danny Garcia."

## CHAMPION GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX KO 1 SOD KOKIETGYM

July 19, Macau (UniMas/BoxNation)

★ He's been called Guillermo Rigon*dull.* Banned by HBO. Called boring by Bob Arum. But the dull was gone in a moment as dramatic as it was controversial.

Rigondeaux (14-0, 9 KOs), dismissed for lack of aggression, finished Kokietgym faster than Floyd Mayweather Jr. did in stopping Victor Ortiz

A head-butt floored Kokietgym (63-3-1, 28 KOs) 44 seconds after the opening bell. He got up dazed, leaving his left hand down as the fighters touched gloves, and Rigondeaux pounced. The champion's potential flashed with speed and power in an explosive right-left combo that put Kokietgym down again.

This time, Kokietgym didn't get up. It was over at 1:44 of the round in what might be a new beginning for the Cuban, who ended his Top Rank contract by saying he wants to unify his RING, WBO and WBA junior featherweight titles against Leo Santa Cruz (WBC) and Kiko Martinez (IBF).

ALEXANDER/DAWSON: STEPHEN DUNN/GETTY IMAGES; BARTHELEMY: WILFREDO LEE/AP PHOTO; MARES/KAMEDA/HERRERA: JOSH HEDGES/GETTY IMAGES; VARGAS: ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

# FIGHT RESULTS

THROUGH FIGHTS OF JULY 20, 2014 (CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

## HEAVYWEIGHTS

Dominic Breazeale TKO 3 Devin Vargas
Shannon Briggs UD 12 Raphael Zumbano Love
Joseph Parker TKO 7 Brian Minto
Edmund Gerber TKO 2 Vicente Sandez
Ruslan Chagaev MD 12 Fres Oquendo

## CRUISERWEIGHTS

Youri Kalenga SD 12 Mateusz Masternak
Chad Dawson KO 1 George Blades
Jean-Marc Mormeck TKO 4 Tamas Lodi
Stephen Simmons TKO 10 Wadi Camacho
Ilunga Makabu TKO 9 Glen Johnson
Lukasz Janik UD 10 Rico Hoye
Ruben Angel Mino TKO 4 Carlos Roldan
Juan Carlos Gomez TKO 5 Goran Delic
Yunier Dorticos UD 10 Edison Miranda
Nathan Cleverly TKO 4 Alejandro Emilio Valori
Tony Bellew TKO 5 Julio Cesar Dos Santos
Victor Ramirez KO 4 Cleiton Conceicao

## LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Doudou Ngumbu UD 10 Johnny Muller
Nadjib Mohammedi TKO 7 Anatoliy Dudchenko
Robert Berridge TKO 1 Rogerio Damasco
Umberto Savigne TKO 2 Jeff Lacy
Miles Shinkwin W 10 Joel McIntyre
Mirco Ricci UD 10 Lorenzo Di Giacomo

## SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Fedor Chudinov TKO 3 Andy Perez
Callum Smith UD 10 Vladine Biosse
Rocky Fielding TKO 5 Noe Gonzalez Alcoba
Frank Buglioni TKO 4 Sam Couzens
Gilberto Ramirez TKO 1 Junior Talipeau

## MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Martin Murray UD 12 Max Bursak
Dominic Wade UD 10 Nick Brinson
Matt Korobov UD 10 Jose Uzcategui
Akio Shibata UD 12 Hikaru Nishida
Tureano Johnson UD 10 Mike Gavronski
Mike Keta KO 7 Mikheil Khutsishvili

## JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Alfonso Gomez UD 10 Ed Paredes
Freddie Turner TD 8 Kris Agyei-Dua
Saul Alvarez SD 12 Erislandy Lara

## WELTERWEIGHTS

Robert Guerrero UD 12 Yoshihiro Kamegai
Devon Alexander UD 10 Jesus Soto Karass
Errol Spence UD 10 Ronald Cruz
(F) Tori Nelson UD 10 Nicole Woods
Mikael Zewski KO 4 Prince Doku Jr.
Konstantin Ponomarev TKO 1 Joseph De Los Santos

Teerachai Kratingdaenggym TKO 3 Kanat Kartenbayev
Jeff Horn UD 12 Fernando Ferreira da Silva

## JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Jason Pagara TKO 4 Mario Meraz
Sandor Martin UD 10 Mikheil Avakyani
Czar Amonsot KO 4 Thong Por Chokchai
Ignacio Mendoza UD 10 King Daluz
Willie Limond MD 12 Curtis Woodhouse
Adones Cabalquinto KO 6 Giovani Rota
Michael Katsidis UD 12 Graham Earl
Paul Spadafora UD 8 Hector Velazquez
Mauricio Herrera MD 12 Johan Perez
Paul Kamanga UD 12 Boitshepo Mandawe
Zolani Marali SD 12 Kaizer Mabuza
Mercito Gesta TKO 7 Luis Arceo
Emmanuel Taylor UD 10 Karim Mayfield
Luca Giacon TKO 8 Stevie Williams

## LIGHTWEIGHTS

Jean-Pierre Bauwens TKO 5 Gyorgy Mizsei Jr.
Sharif Bogere TKO 3 Miguel Zamudio

Former U.S. Olympian Dominic Breazeale (left) continued his development by stopping Devin Vargas in three rounds on the Robert Guerrero-Yoshihiro Kamegai card on June 21.

STEPHEN DUNN/GETTY IMAGES

Karl Dargan TKO 5 Anthony Flores
Dejan Zlaticanin SD 12 Ricky Burns
Ivan Redkach UD 10 Sergey Gulyakevich
Darleys Perez UD 12 Argenis Lopez
Terence Crawford KO 9 Yuriorkis Gamboa
Jonathan Maicelo SD 10 Art Hovhannisyan
Richard Commey UD 12 Gary Buckland
Abraham Cordero UD 12 Shoki Sakai
Nery Saguilan TKO 8 Seiichi Okada

## JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Juan Pablo Sanchez KO 9 Onalvi Sierra
Michael Farenas TKO 8 Mark Davis
Billy Dib UD 10 Alberto Garza
Adrian Estrella UD 12 Dante Jardon
Miguel Berchelt KO 4 Carlos Manuel Reyes
Rances Barthelemy UD 12 Argenis Mendez
Francisco Vargas TKO 3 Juan Manuel Lopez
Mitchell Smith UD 10 Peter Cope

## FEATHERWEIGHTS

Cristian MijaresTKO 7 Sebastian Rodriguez
Vasyl Lomachenko MD 12 Gary Russell Jr.
Satoshi Hosono TKO 6 Gosuke Seki
Hisashi Amagasa TKO 8 Maxsaisai Sithsaithong
Kris Hughes UD 10 Jon Slowey
(F) Dahiana Santana UD 10 Francia Elena Bravo
Vinvin Rufino UD 12 Cristian Abila
Abner Mares UD 10 Jonathan Oquendo
Leonilo Miranda KO 4 Gabino Cota
Lusanda Komanisi TKO 5 Macbute Sinyabi
Takuya Watanabe KO 7 Yodpichai Sithsaithong

## JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Cesar Seda UD 10 Alex Rangel
Albert Pagara TKO 1 Hugo Partida
Joseph Diaz UD 10 Ramiro Robles
(F) Maureen Shea TKO 4 Angel Gladney
Enrique Quevedo TKO 5 Yoandris Salinas
Arturo Santos Reyes UD 10 Jairo Hernandez
Guillermo Rigondeaux KO 1 Sod Kokietgym

## BANTAMWEIGHTS

Petch Sor Chitpattana UD 10 Gerpaul Valero
(F) Yazmin Rivas UD 10 Alesia Graf
Sonny Boy Jaro TKO 5 Ichal Tobida
Marlon Tapales UD 12 Fadhili Majiha
Tomoki Kameda KO 7 Pungluang Sor Singyu
(F) Carolina Raquel Duer UD 10 Ana Lozano

## JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Jamie Conlan TKO 3 Gabor Molnar
Jose Salgado UD 12 Oscar Blanquet
(F) Eva Voraberger UD 10 Nonggift Onesongchaigym
(F) Zulina Munoz TKO 6 Renata Domsodi
Henry Maldonado KO 6 Fernando Aguilar
(F) Naoko Fujioka UD 10 Tomoko Kawanishi
Zolani Tete UD 12 Teiru Kinoshita
Lwandile Sityatha SD 12 Edrin Dapudong
Jonathan Vidal KO 8 Juan Kantun

## FLYWEIGHTS

Koki Eto KO 8 Ardin Diale
McWilliams Arroyo TKO 2 Froilan Saludar
Nawaphon Por Chokchai TKO 7 Jay-ar Estremos
Brian Viloria KO 5 Jose Alfredo Zuniga
Zou Shiming UD 10 Luis De La Rosa

## JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Ryuji Hara UD 10 Faris Nenggo
Ryoichi Taguchi UD 8 Florante Condes
Paipharob Kokietgym KO 3 Bobby Concepcion

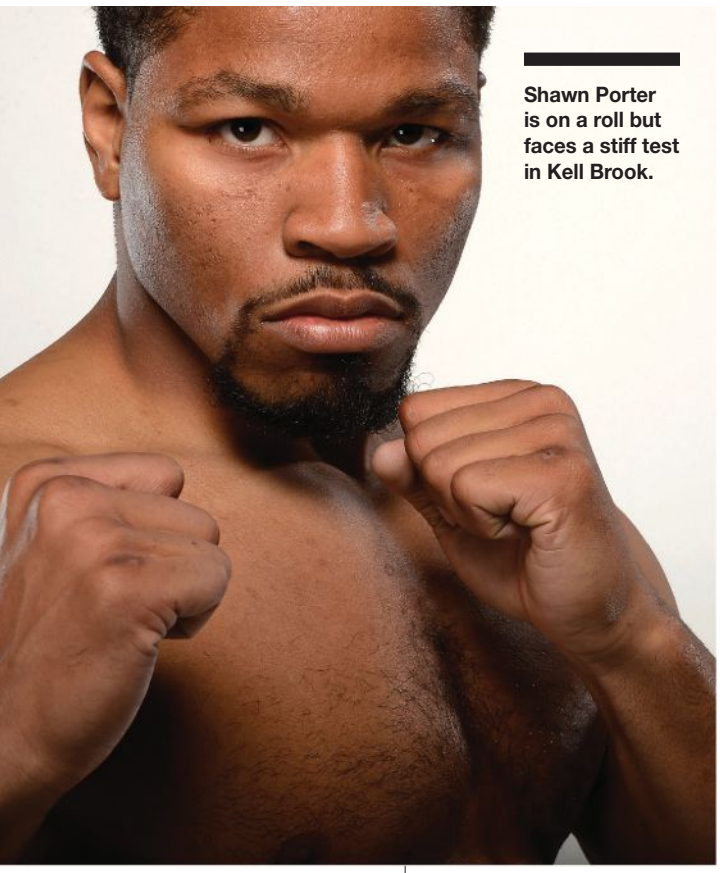
## STRAWWEIGHTS

Hekkie Budler KO 8 Pigmy Kokietgym
(F) Oezlem Sahin KO 6 Buangern Onesongchaigym
Oswaldo Novoa TKO 8 Alcides Martinez
Luyanda Nkwankwa UD 12 Sibusiso Twani

# COMING UP

*PREDICTIONS ARE MADE BY RING STAFF MEMBERS MICHAEL ROSENTHAL, DOUG FISCHER AND LEM SATTERFIELD.*

## AUGUST



Shawn Porter is on a roll but faces a stiff test in Kell Brook.

### SHAWN PORTER VS. KELL BROOK

AUG. 16 / StubHub Center, Carson, Calif.

**Division:** Welterweight (for Porter's IBF title)
**TV:** Showtime
**Watchability rating (up to five stars):** ★★★★★
**Also fighting:** Omar Figueroa vs. Daniel Estrada, lightweights (for Figueroa's WBC title); Sakio Bika vs. Anthony Dirrell, super middlweights (for Bika's WBC title).
**Significance:** Porter (24-0-1, 15 KOs) is a hot commodity after impressive victories over Devon Alexander (to win the title) and Paulie Malignaggi. Brook (32-0, 22 KOs) is overdue for such an opportunity. And the Briton has the all-around ability to make this fight interesting.
**Prediction:** Rosenthal – Porter KO 10; Fischer – Porter UD; Satterfield – Porter UD

AUG. 16 – Yoan Pablo Hernandez vs. Firat Arslan, cruiserweights (for Hernandez's RING and IBF titles), Erfurt, Germany
AUG. 22 – Austin Trout vs. Daniel Dawson, junior middleweights, Temecula, Calif. (ESPN2)
AUG. 23 – Donovan Geoge vs. Dyah Davis, super middleweights, Chicago
AUG. 23 – Mike Jones vs. Jaime Herrera, welterweights, Atlantic City
AUG. 30 – Marco Huck vs. Mirko Larghetti, cruiserweights (for Huck's WBO title), Halle, Germany
AUG. 30 – Matthew Macklin vs. Jorge Sebastien Heiland, middleweights, Dublin, Ireland

## SEPTEMBER

### AKIRA YAEGASHI VS. ROMAN GONZALEZ

SEPT. 5 / Yoyogi No. 2 Gymnasium, Tokyo

**Division:** Flyweights (for Yaegashi's RING and WBC titles)
**TV:** None in U.S.
**Watchability rating (up to five stars):** ★★★★
**Also fighting:** Naoya Inoue vs. Samartlek Kokietgym, junior flyweights (for Inoue's WBC title)
**Significance:** Gonzalez (39-0, 33 KOs) dominated opponents en route to winning strawweight and junior flyweight titles. How will he do as a flyweight? Yaegashi (20-3, 10 KOs) should be a stiff test. He is a very good boxer who has never been stopped and is 5-0 as a flyweight.
**Prediction:** Rosenthal – Gonzalez UD; Fischer – Gonzalez UD; Satterfield – Gonzalez SD

### WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO VS. KUBRAT PULEV

SEPT. 6 / O2 World Arena, Hamburg, Germany

**Division:** Heavyweight (for Klitschko's RING, IBF, WBA and WBO titles)
**TV:** RTL in Germany
**Watchability rating (up to five stars):** ★★★★
**Significance:** Pulev (20-0, 11 KOs) probably is the most qualified opponent for Klitschko (62-3, 52 KOs) at the moment. The Bulgarian has a solid amateur background, has compiled a good pro record and he's big (6-foot-4). Will it matter against Klitschko? Probably not.
**Prediction:** Rosenthal – Klitscko KO 8; Fischer – Klitschko UD; Satterfield – Klitschko UD

### KIKO MARTINEZ VS. CARL FRAMPTON

SEPT. 6 / Titantic Quarter, Belfast, Northern Ireland

**Division:** Junior featherweight (for Martinez's IBF title)
**TV:** Sky Sports in the U.K.
**Watchability rating (up to five stars):** ★★★★
**Significance:** Frampton (18-0, 13 KOs) KO'd Martinez (31-4, 23 KOs) early last year but Martinez has accomplished a great deal since, stopping Jhonatan Romero (to win the IBF title), Jeffrey Mathebula

Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Marcos Maidana are going to do it again on Sept. 13.

and Hozumi Hasegawa in succession. Frampton will be fighting in his hometown.
**Prediction:** Rosenthal – Martinez UD; Fischer – Frampton MD; Satterfield – Frampton UD 12

### FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. VS. MARCOS MAIDANA II

SEPT. 13 / MGM Grand, Las Vegas
**Division:** Welterweight (for Mayweather's RING, WBA and WBC titles)
**TV:** Showtime Pay-Per-View
**Watchability rating (up to five stars):** ★★★★★
**Also fighting:** Peter Quillin vs. Andy Lee, middleweights (for Quillin's WBO title); Leo Santa Cruz vs. TBA, junior featherweights (for Santa Cruz's WBC title); Keith Thurman vs. TBA, welterweights
**Significance:** Maidana (35-4, 31 KOs) earned a second shot at Mayweather (46-0, 26 KOs) by giving the pound-for-pound king a surprisingly competitive fight in May. Can the aggressive Argentine cause more mischief? Something tells us that Mayweather will adjust and dominate.
**Prediction:** Rosenthal – Mayweather UD; Fischer – Mayweather UD; Satterfield – Mayweather UD

SEPT. 6 – Adrien Broner vs. Emmanuel Taylor, junior welterweights, Cincinnati
SEPT. 6 – Juan Francisco Estrada vs. Giovani Segura, flyweights (for Estrada's WBA and WBO titles), Mexico City
SEPT. 6 – Lucas Matthysse vs. Michael Perez, junior welterweights, Cincinnati
SEPT 14 – Amnat Ruenroeng vs. McWilliams Arroyo, flyweights (for Ruenroeng's IBF title), Korat, Thailand
SEPT. 20 – George Groves vs. Christopher Rebrasse, super middleweights, London
SEPT. 27 – Arthur Abraham vs. Paul Smith, super middleweights (for Abraham's WBO title), Kiel, Germany
SEPT. 30 – Hassan N'Dam N'Jikam vs. Curtis Stevens, middleweights, Santa Monica, Calif.

MAYWEATHER: MIKE STOBE/GETTY IMAGES; PORTER: JEFF BOTTARI

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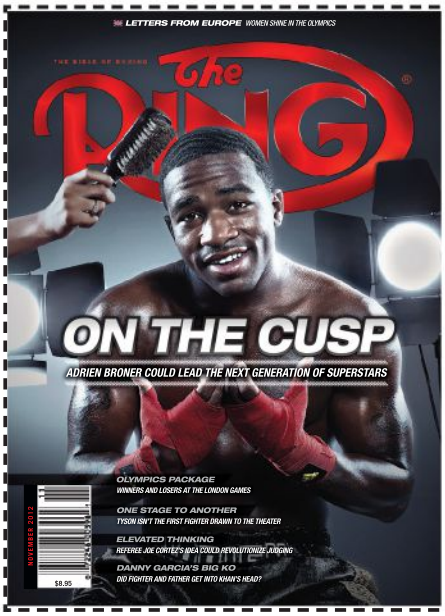


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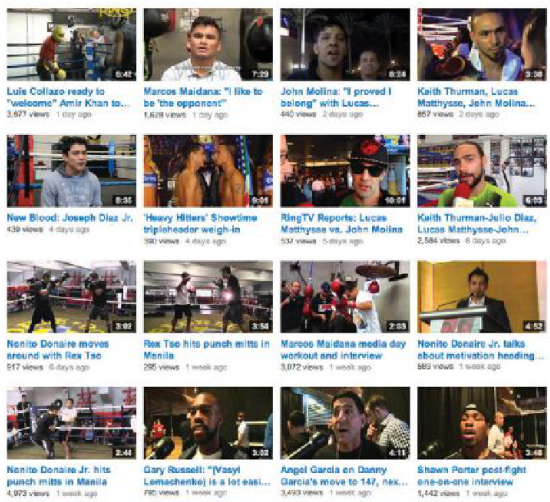




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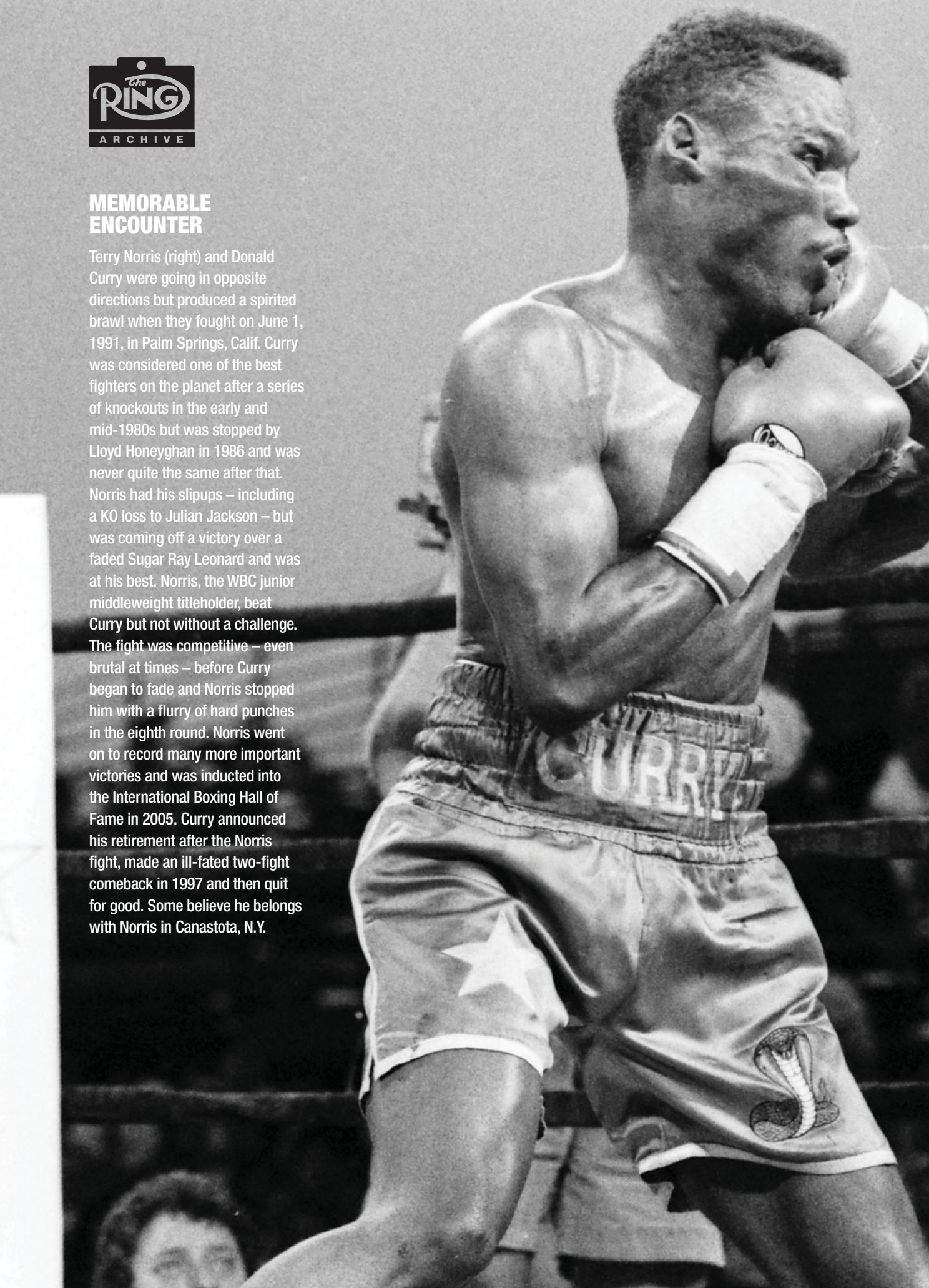

## MEMORABLE ENCOUNTER

Terry Norris (right) and Donald Curry were going in opposite directions but produced a spirited brawl when they fought on June 1, 1991, in Palm Springs, Calif. Curry was considered one of the best fighters on the planet after a series of knockouts in the early and mid-1980s but was stopped by Lloyd Honeyghan in 1986 and was never quite the same after that. Norris had his slipups – including a KO loss to Julian Jackson – but was coming off a victory over a faded Sugar Ray Leonard and was at his best. Norris, the WBC junior middleweight titleholder, beat Curry but not without a challenge. The fight was competitive – even brutal at times – before Curry began to fade and Norris stopped him with a flurry of hard punches in the eighth round. Norris went on to record many more important victories and was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2005. Curry announced his retirement after the Norris fight, made an ill-fated two-fight comeback in 1997 and then quit for good. Some believe he belongs with Norris in Canastota, N.Y.

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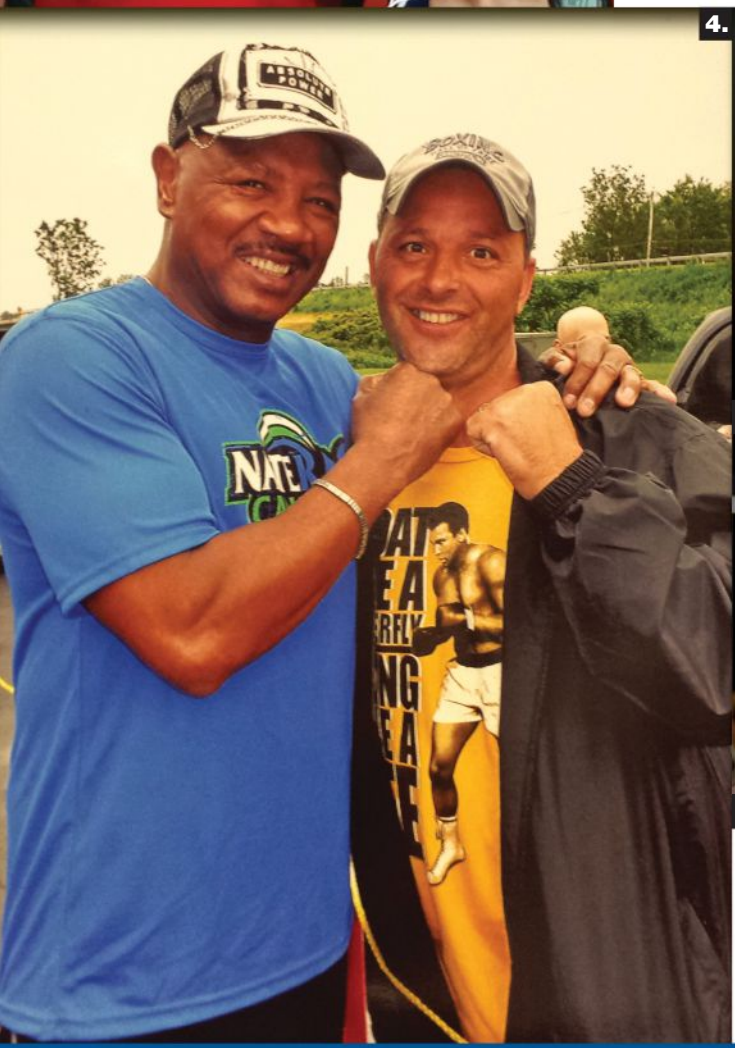
# AT THE FIGHTS

1.

2.

3.

**1.** J.C. Papaleo with Freddie Roach during Chris Algieri-Ruslan Provodnikov fight week in June at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. **2.** Marielle (right) and Adriana Seda flank Glen Johnson in June at the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, N.Y. **3.** Lauren Hernandez with trainer Robert Garcia at the Canelo Alvarez-Alfredo Angulo fight in March in Las Vegas. **4.** Joe Constantino (right) with Marvin Hagler at the Hall of Fame in 2013. **5.** Mike Barker (right) with Billy Backus during Hall of Fame weekend this past June. **6.** Fraser Munden (left) with Bermane Stiverne following the Adonis Stevenson-Andrzej Fonfara fight in May in Montreal.



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# MAYHEM

# MAYWEATHER VS MAIDANA 2

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